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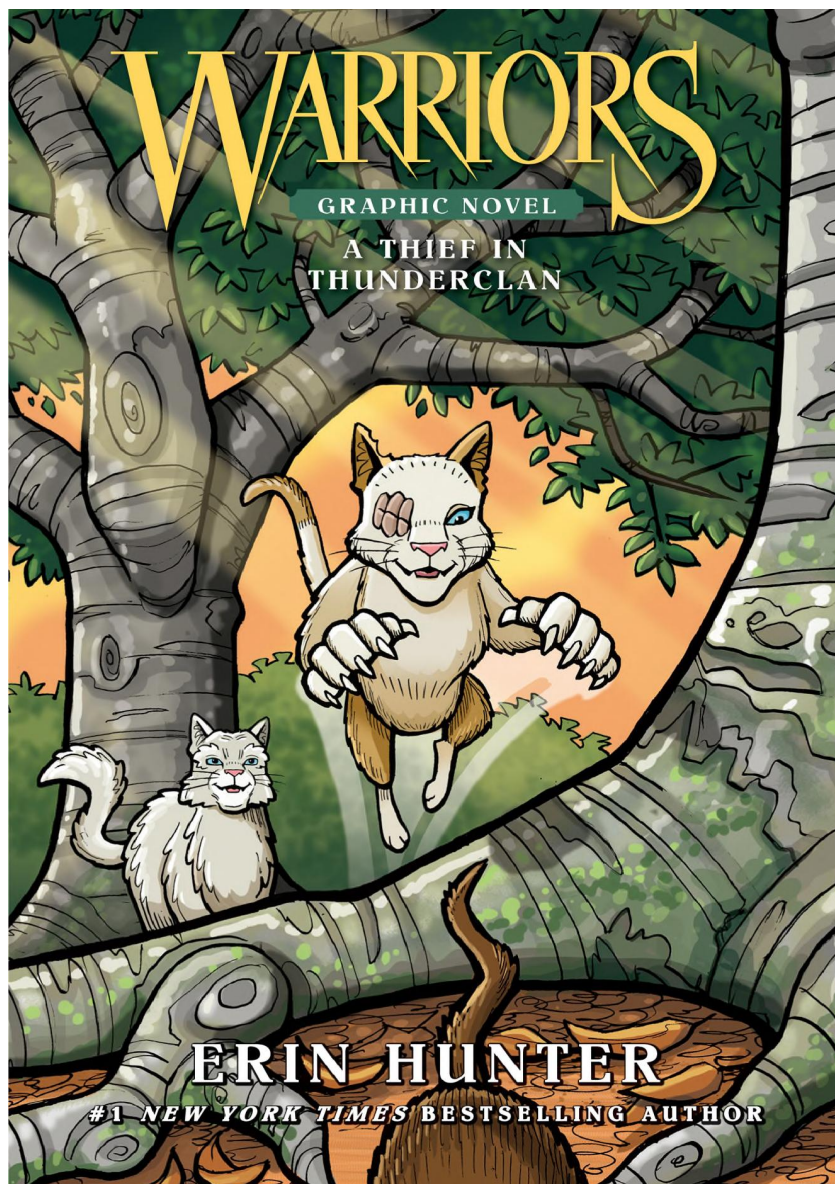
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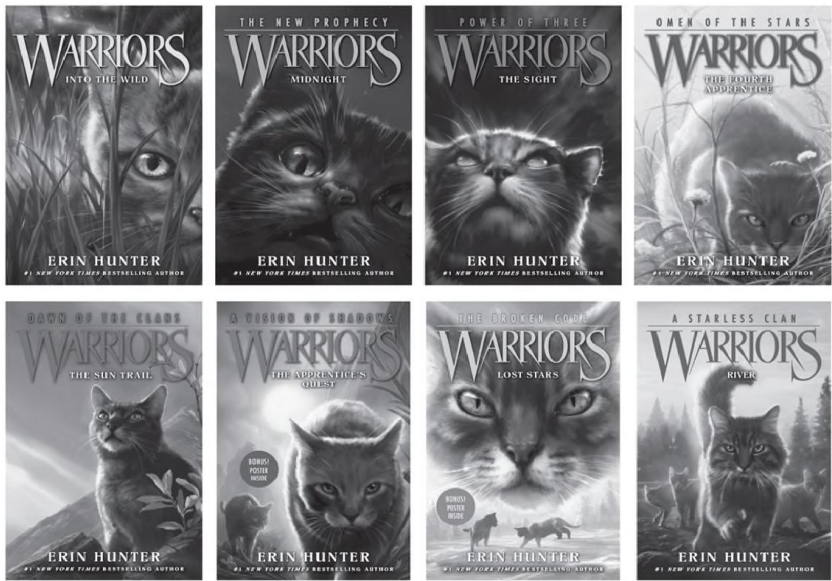
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— DIVE INTO THE WARRIORS WORLD! — WALBIORS,  
THE NEW PROPHECY OWEN OF THE STARS NSO 4 vg ‘

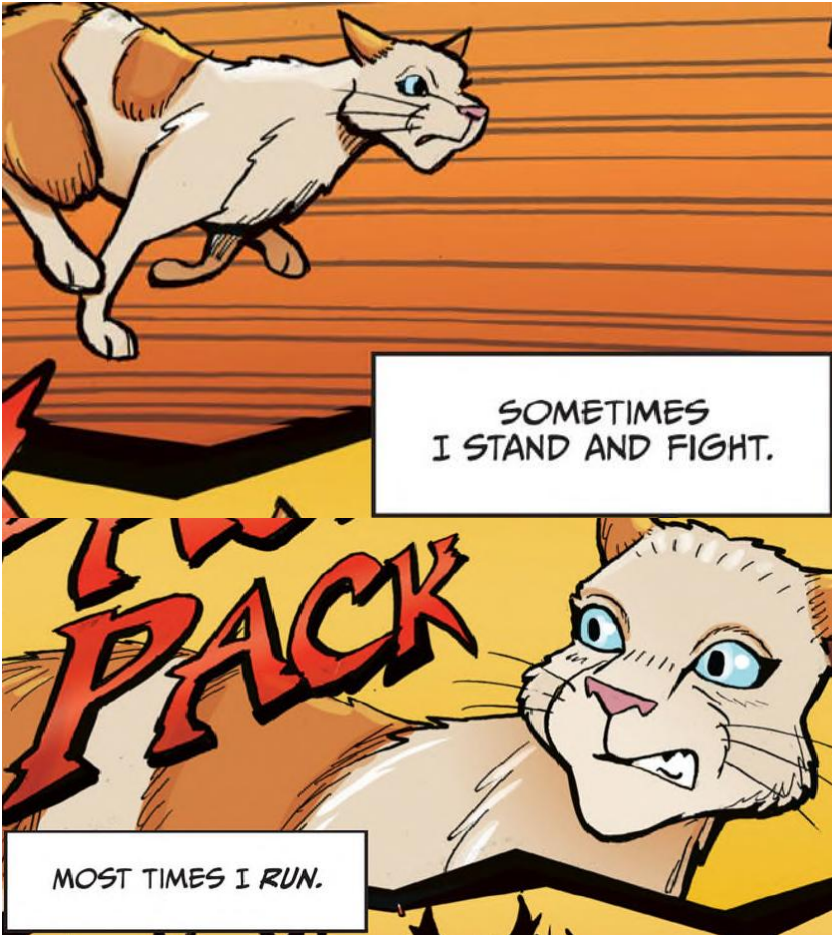


ARRIORS THUNDERCLAN CREATED BY ERIN HUNTER  
WRITTEN BY DAN JOLLEY ART BY JAMES L. BARRY An Imprint of  
HarperCollinsPublishers

[ARRIORS GRAPHIC NOVELS Graystripe's Adventure  
Ravenpaw's Path SkyClan and the Stranger A Shadow in RiverClan  
Winds of Change Exile from ShadowClan Tigerstar and Sasha + + 1:  
Into the Woods Tigerstar and Sasha + 2: Escape from the Forest  
Tigerstar and Sasha + 3: Return to the Clans The Rise of Scourge  
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: \_ THE DREAM ISN'T | ALWAYS THE SAME. s MOST  
TIMES I RUN.







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BUT SWIFTPAW... r/t 7 CLEA .-. SWIFTPAW ALWAYS  
DIES. VILS Beaks



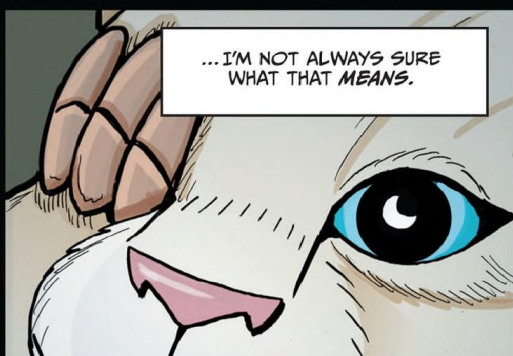


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a en p af ia Wid) Muid



MY NAME IS BRIGHTHEART. I'M A WARRIOR OF THUNDERCLAN. - L'M NOT ALWAYS SURE p WHAT THAT MEANS. AP [on SOME OF US ARE TRYING TO SLEEP.

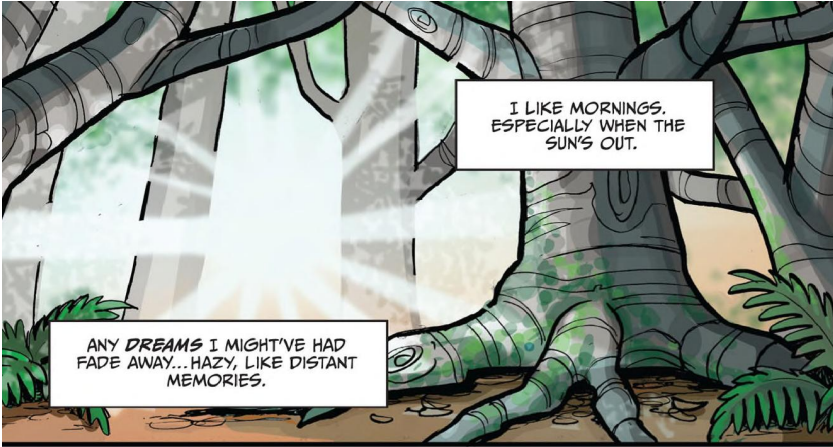


BRIGHTHEART? I HAD THE DREAM AGAIN. I'M NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE RGE a I TO FORGET, AM I?



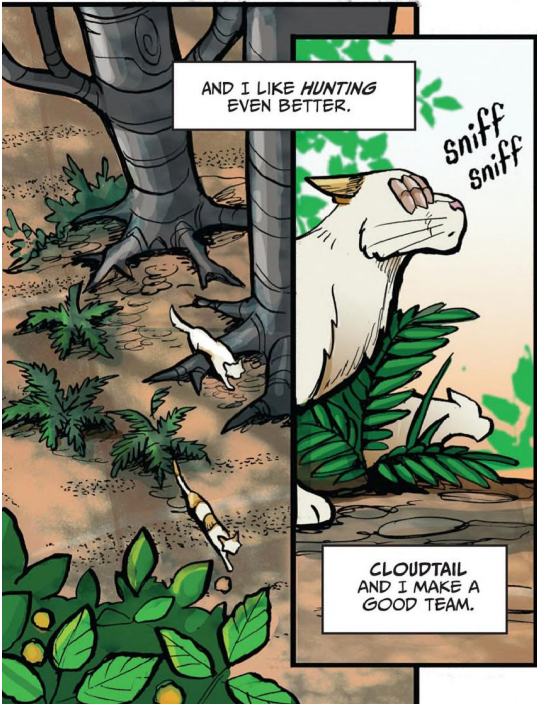
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I LIKE MORNINGS. : ESPECIALLY WHEN THE ( SUN'S  
OUT. \ Ee ANY DREAMS I MIGHT'VE HAD H FADE AWAY...HAZY,  
LIKE DISTANT \)y) MEMORIES. AND I LIKE HUNTING EVEN  
BETTER. aN y = ME BY SURPRISE cLoupTa |\_| BUT IT STILL TOOK  
, WHEN WE FELL IN LOVE.



I LIKE MORNINGS.  
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE  
SUN'S OUT.

ANY *DREAMS* I MIGHT'VE HAD  
FADE AWAY...HAZY, LIKE DISTANT  
MEMORIES.



AND I LIKE HUNTING  
EVEN BETTER.



sniff  
sniff

CLOUDTAIL  
AND I MAKE A  
GOOD TEAM.



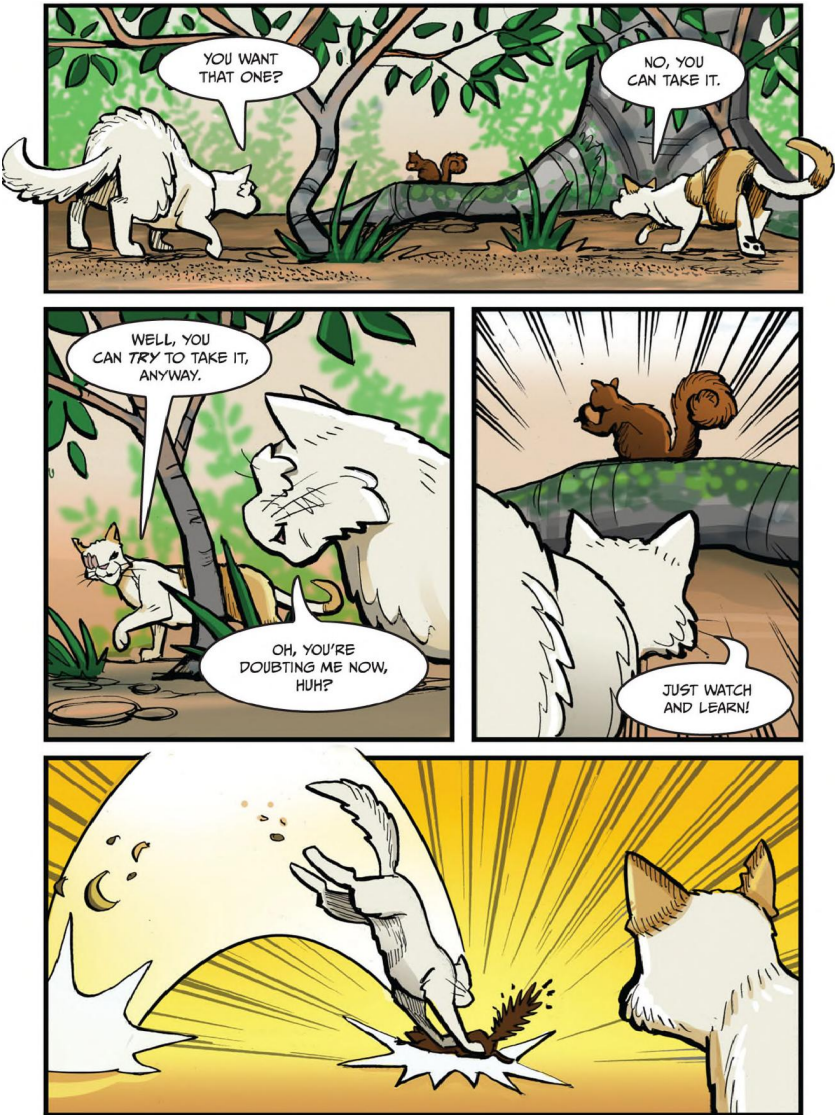
WE'VE KNOWN  
EACH OTHER  
SINCE WE WERE  
APPRENTICES.

BUT IT STILL TOOK  
ME BY SURPRISE  
WHEN WE *FELL*  
IN LOVE.

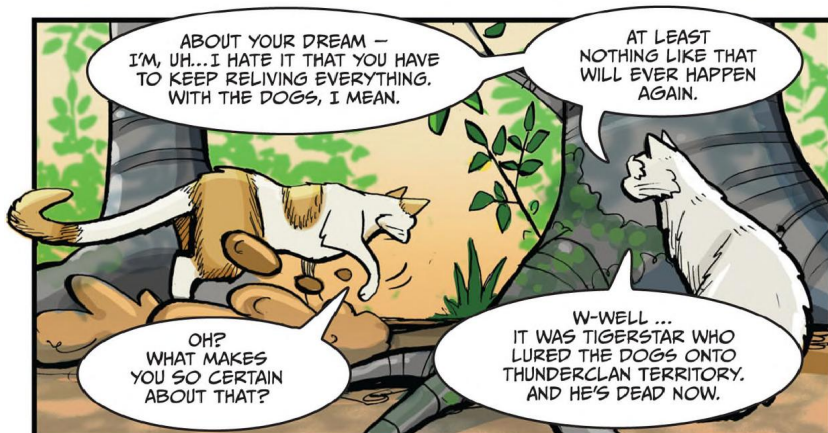


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if A YOU WANT 5 THAT ONE? LAW ESN WZ ers) \\\ JUST  
WATCH AND LEARN! er ‘=



ABOUT YOUR DREAM — I'M, UH...I HATE IT THAT YOU HAVE TO KEEP RELIVING EVERYTHING. WITH THE DOGS, I MEAN. YOU SO CERTAIN ABOUT THAT? WAS THUNDERCLAN'S DEPUTY... -- AND BOTH SHADOWCLAN AND RIVERCLAN FOLLOWED HIM INTO BATTLE. AGAINST US. AT LEAST NOTHING LIKE THAT WILL EVER HAPPEN AGAIN. W-WELL ... IT WAS TIGERSTAR WHO LURED THE DOGS ONTO THUNDERCLAN TERRITORY. AND HE'S DEAD NOW. IF A CAT WE ONCE TRUSTED COULD DO SOMETHING THAT I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST HARD TO TRUST ANY CAT NOW.





I a I DO TRUST FIRESTAR. HE BROUGHT ME INTO THUNDERCLAN. TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE A WARRIOR. YOU KNOW I NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU AS 'LOSTFACE.' a BLUESTAR WAS q WRONG TO CALL YOU THAT. WRONG AND... AND CRUEL. IF THUNDERCLAN HAS THE MOST LOYAL WARRIORS, THE OTHER CLANS CAN'T HURT US, RIGHT? HEY — SPEAKING OF A FIRESTAR GAVE ME BACK MY NAME, TOO. CLANMATES ARE SUPPOSED TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER. WARRIOR'S DUTY... WATCH THIS.

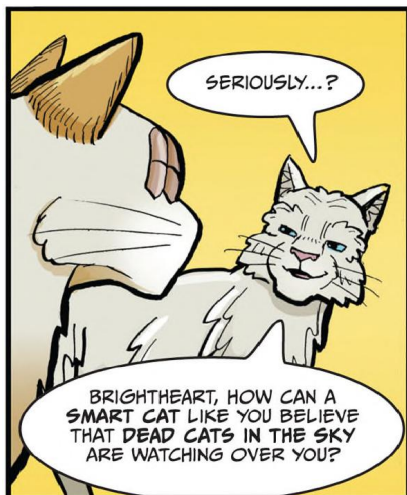


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} Ch Li > LX 4 e Y» / ; Ty ~ ~ 4 re ~ 3 y y \ S



HOW CAN A SMART CAT LIKE YOU NOT BELIEVE?  
BECAUSE IT'S — BRIGHTHEART, HOW CAN A I — THERE'S NO —  
SMART CAT LIKE YOU BELIEVE THAT DEAD CATS IN THE SKY  
ARE WATCHING OVER YOU? LOOK, YOU CAN THINK WHAT I  
MAY NOT TRUST OTHER L/VING CATS, BUT I DO TRUST  
STARCLAN. OVER US. I KNOW THEY ARE. NOT JUST OVER ME,  
CLOUDTAIL.

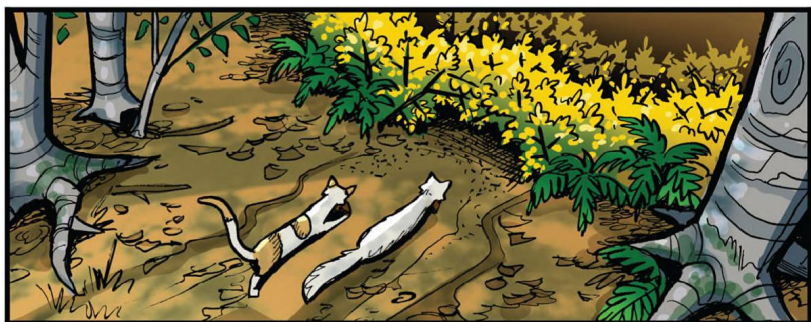




WHOA... THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD'VE SEEN THAT MOUSE. BUT YOU — = { \_ —COD'IDN'T EVEN ro HESITATE! A WARRIOR WHO CAN'T CATCH A MOUSE BY SCENT AND SOUND ALONE...



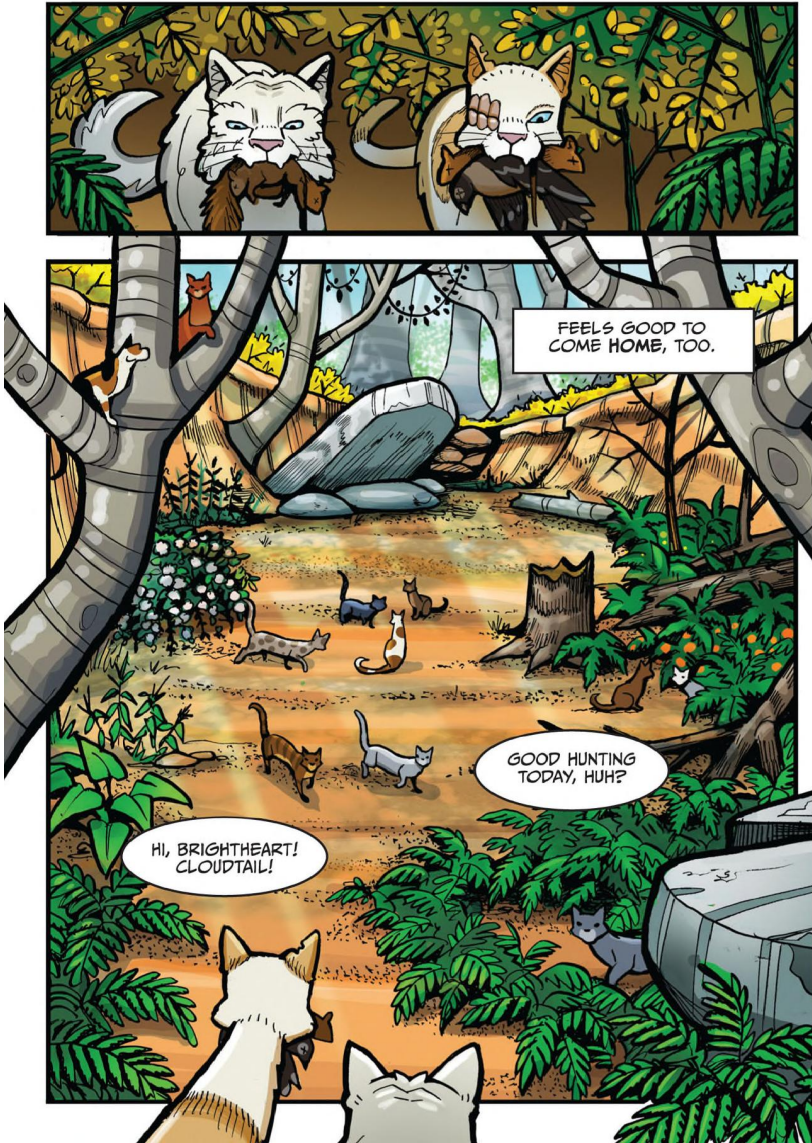
YEAH, I GUESS. IM STILL THE BEST HUNTER IN THE CLAN, IT FEELS GOOD TO LAUGH. ESPECIALLY WITH CLOUDTAIL. √ ip





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d . pers ps (Cc > 7 — a ¥ /) a GOOD HUNTING TODAY,  
HUH? HI, BRIGHTHEART! CLOUDTAIL!





CLOUDTAIL. BRIGHTHEART. SPEAKING OF CLAN af  
DEPUTIES WE CAN TRUST... er er cee, BACK PLENTY OF PREY,  
CAN'T WE? HELLO, GRAYSTRIPE. JUST DOING WHAT WARRIORS  
ARE SUPPOSED TO DO! [e} NEED TO BE SO MODEST! yy = 2 We  
& 5 BRIGHTHEART! GOOD HUNTING! YEAH — HAT'/LL BE TWO  
OR AND I JUST GOT THREE GOOD MEALS FOR SOME CAT.  
REALLY HUNGRY. WANT TO SHARE A VOLEP THAT SOUNDS  
LOVELY, YES, THANKS.



LOOKS LIKE OUR MEAL'S GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT.  
LET ALL CATS OLD ENOUGH TO CATCH THEIR OWN PREY  
GATHER HERE BENEATH THE HIGHROCK FOR A CLAN MEETING.



THE CLAN'S IN NEED OF MORE APPRENTICES... ...AND AS SOON AS I SEE WILLOWPELT AND HER KITS, I KNOW I'M RIGHT. THEIR FATHER, WHITESTORM, WAS THUNDERCLAN'S DEPUTY. ae) ae i < BUT HE DIED IN BATTLE AGAINST BLOODCLAN TWO MOONS AGO. I'M SURE HIS LOSS FEELS AS FRESH TO THEM AS MY SCARS FEEL TO ME.

THEIR FATHER, WHITESTORM,  
WAS THUNDERCLAN'S DEPUTY.



BUT HE DIED IN BATTLE AGAINST  
BLOODCLAN TWO MOONS AGO.

I'M SURE HIS LOSS FEELS  
AS FRESH TO THEM AS MY  
SCARS FEEL TO ME.

NOW I DON'T HAVE TO BE THE ONLY APPRENTICE ANYMORE! NEITHER CLOUDTAIL NOR I HAVE EVER MENTORED AN APPRENTICE | C2 Sa ee > THREE WOULD BE AMAZING. THUNDERCLAN KITS wy : HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF SIX ..- AND ARE NOW READY TO BECOME APPRENTICES. y\* \





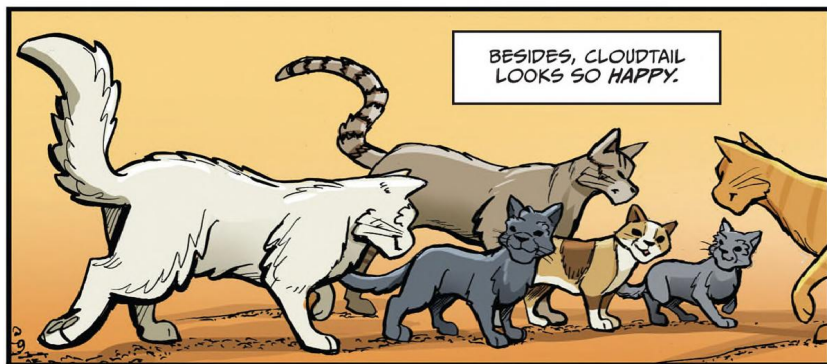


SOOTKIT, FROM THIS DAY ON, UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR WARRIOR NAME, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS SOOTPAW. AND YOUR MENTOR WILL BE LONGTAIL. SORRELKIT, FROM THIS DAY ON, UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR WARRIOR NAME, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AND YOUR MENTOR WILL BE SANDSTORM. OOH — SANDSTORM AND I WERE BOTH WHITESTORMS APPRENTICES! a SW / DOES THIS MEAN I'M NEXT? IT WOULD BE SUCH AN HONOR TO MENTOR ONE OF WHITESTORM'S KITS! AS SORRELPAW. RAINKIT, FROM THIS DAY ON, UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR WARRIOR NAME, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS RAINPAW. AND YOUR MENTOR WILL BE...





I HOPE YOUR MENTORS WILL PASS DOWN ALL THAT  
THEY KNOW TO YOU. FAIR OF ME TO QUESTION I FIRESTAR'S  
JUDGMENT, EITHER. √ ' | WANT TO DO IS MAKE 50 THIS IS  
SOMETHING CLOUDTAIL FEEL LIKE TLL KEEP TO MYSELF. | IM  
RESENTFUL. [ AND I KNOW IT'S NOT THE LAST THING I BESIDES,  
CLOUDTAIL LOOKS SO HAPPY.



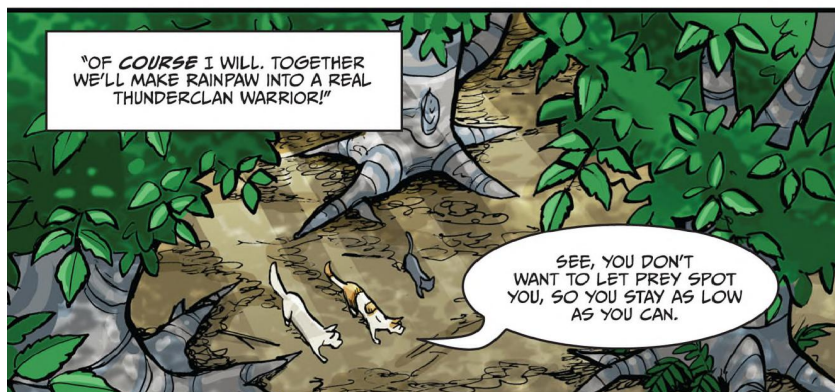
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Was Y Re f. RAINPAW! [E> . : FIRESTAR WAS MY ~S  
MENTOR — AND I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING HE TAUGHT Me!  
I CANT BELIEVE IT! MY OWN / J YOU'LL BE GREAT. eee (seek  
HE'S LUCKY TO HAVE YOU.

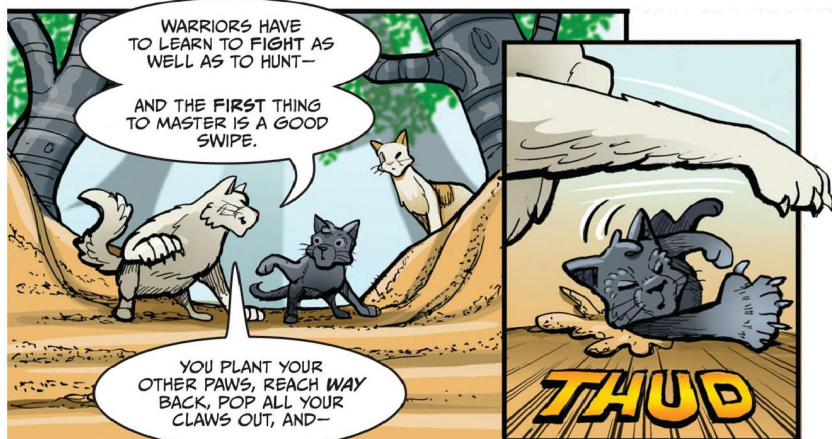


HEY, YOU KNEW WELL, UNTIL THAT THIS ISN'T  
ANYTHING HAPPENS...I COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP. REE TS  
WITH RAINPAW. AND FERN CLOUD'S KITS WILL BE SIX MOONS  
SOON ENOUGH — I'M SURE YOU'LL SEE. EE EER I WANT TO TRAIN  
HIM RIGHT — AND I KNOW HOW GOOD A YEAH, MAYBE. WE'LL  
SEE. TEACHER YOU ARE. WILL YOU MENTOR HIM WITH ME? 'OF  
COURSE I WILL. TOGETHER WE'LL MAKE RAINPAW INTO A REAL  
THUNDERCLAN WARRIOR!" SEE, YOU DON'T WANT TO LET  
PREY SPOT YOU, SO YOU STAY AS LOW AS YOU CAN.





~ THAT'S A GOOD START! WE'LL WORK ON IT.  
WARRIORS HAVE TO LEARN TO FIGHT AS WELL AS TO HUNT—  
AND THE FIRST THING TO MASTER IS A GOOD WIPE. YOU  
PLANT YOUR OTHER PAWS, REACH WAY BACK, POP ALL YOUR  
CLAWS OUT, AND— A GOOD START! RIGHT? Vj h

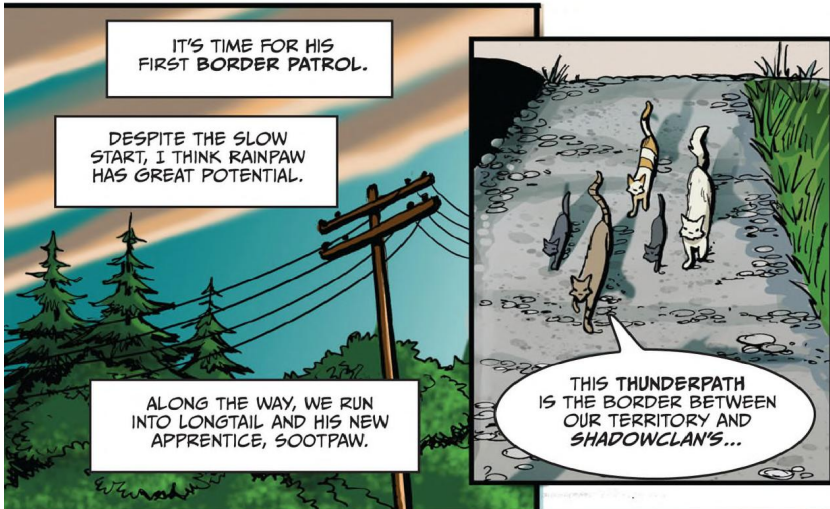


= < = BT gs STRIKING, THOUGH. YOU HAVE TO BE NIMBLE. JUST AS IMPORTANT AS fee HERE, WATCH THIS. “# WE’LL SHOW YOU A THAT BRIGHTHEART DODGE... CAME UP WITH ALL ON HER OWN! SHE RAN RIGHT PAST Me!



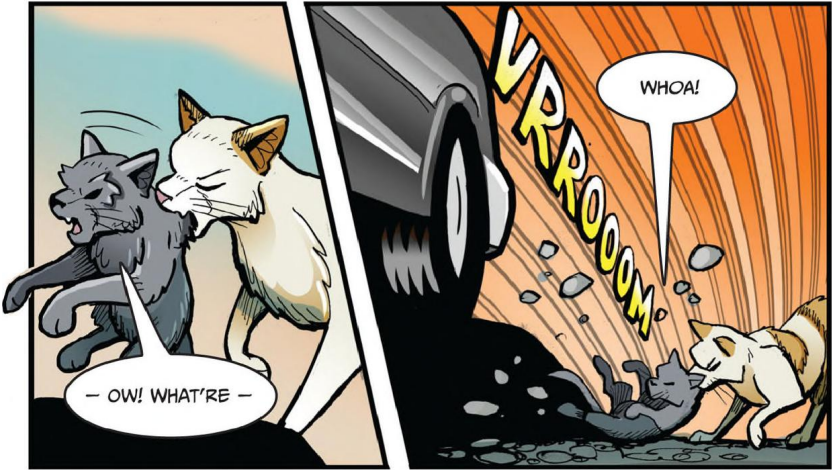
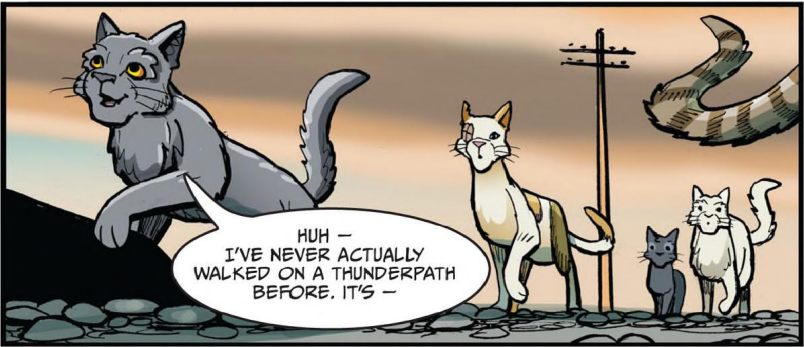


BRIGHTHEART TAUGHT THAT MOVE TO THE REST OF THE CLAN WHEN WE WERE GETTING READY TO FIGHT SCOURGE AND HIS MANGY ROGUES. THAT WAS AMAZING! IT'S TIME FOR HIS FIRST BORDER PATROL. DESPITE THE SLOW START, I THINK RAINPAW HAS GREAT POTENTIAL. THIS THUNDERPATH ALONG THE WAY, WE RUN IS THE BORDER BETWEEN INTO LONGTAIL AND HIS NEW OUR TERRITORY AND APPRENTICE, SOOTPAW. i = SHADOWCLANGS... --- WHICH IS WHY WE MARK THIS SIDE OF IT. TO WARN THE SHADOWCLAN CATS AWAY.





H I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY WALKED ON A THUNDERPATH BEFORE. IT'S — \ — OW! WHAT'RE — ' 4 WOW, THAT WAG... REALLY BIG, AND... REALLY LOUD... \_



YOU MUST ALWAYS BE CAREFUL OF THE MONSTERS  
THAT USE THUNDERPATHS. ALWAYS. BECAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT,  
THEY WILL SQUASH LITTLE APPRENTICES FLAT. DO YOU  
UNDERSTAND? THAT'S NOT A THUNDERPATH MONSTER, Iō ITP  
ALL THE CLANS HAVE DIFFERENT SCENTS.



THAT'S WHAT SHADOWCLAN iceman si SMELLS SMELLS DISGUSTING. THEY MUST BE WEIRD! EH... THEY'RE NOT SO BAD. NOT ALL OF THEM, ANYWAY.





OK COULD THEY BE LOOKING FOR FOME. CAT IN PARTICULAR...



A SHADOWCLAN  
PATROL.



WHY ARE THEY  
JUST WATCHING US LIKE  
THAT?



OR COULD THEY BE  
LOOKING FOR SOME CAT  
IN PARTICULAR...?



30. AS I WAS SPYING... ... THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF THUNDERPATH MONSTERS. SOME ARE FAST, SOME ARE SLOW... BUT THEY CAN ALL SQUASH YOU. GOT IT?



HEY — WHAT'S WRONG? SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING'S GOT YOU SPOOKED. ..I JUST REMEMBERED THAT LONGTAIL USED TO I HOPE \I'S BE ONE OF TIGERSTARS NOTHING. FOLLOWERS. HOW IS IT THAT WE ALL JUST TRUST A CAT WHO WAS SO CLOSE TO THUNDERCLAN'S GREATEST TRAITOR?



BRIGHTHEART, LONGTAIL HAS PROVEN  
THUNDEECLANE BE EAOSE HIMSELF. TO JOIN US. WHERE |S  
THIS COMING FROM? YOU'VE NEVER BEEN WORRIED ABOUT  
HIM BEFORE.





ITS — IT FEELS LIKE HARD TO EXPLAIN. THERE'S DANGER NEARBY. MAYBE IT'S LONGTAIL. MAYBE IT'S SHADOWCLAN. MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING ELSE, I JUST FEEL LIKE THINGS ARE CHANGING.



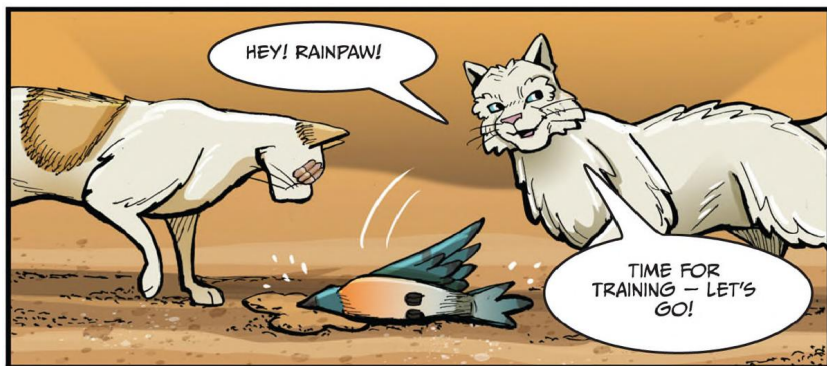


a £ y , ue > aa 5 yl , ; A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP HELPS A LOT. F + d. \ BUT IT TURNS OUT I'M NOT THE ONLY THUNDERCLAN CAT WITH SUSPICIONS. APPRECIATE ALL THESE ACCUSATIONS! ESPECIALLY WHEN I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG! LOOK, THORNCLAW, I KNOW THAT BIG SQUIRREL : I CAUGHT YESTERDAY WAS \ STILL HERE LAST NIGHT. %:

BUT I WOKE UP BEFORE SUNRISE AND CAME TO GET IT,  
AND IT WAS GONES — SO YOU MUST HAVE AND YOU KNEW I  
TAKEN IT, BECAUSE YOU WERE GUARDING WANTED ATLEAST  
THE CAMP ALL NIGHT — HALF OF IT! EATING A WHOLE  
SQUIRREL BY YOURSELF WHEN EVERY OTHER CAT'S ASLEEP?  
IT'S NOT RIDICULOUS! IT'S GREEDY'S A I'M TELLING YOU, I  
DIDN'T TOUCH ANY SQUIRREL LAST NIGHT!

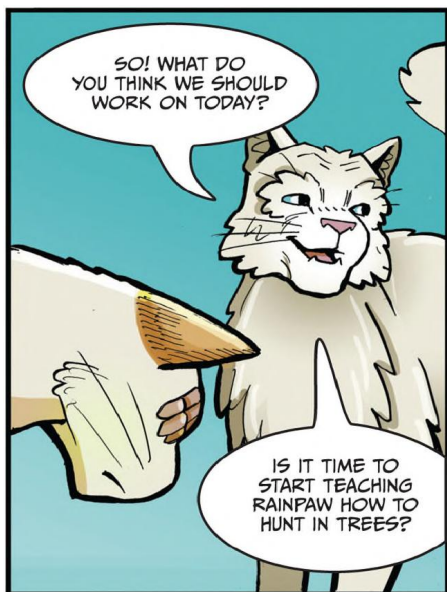


NOT YOURS, NOT ANY CATS!L YEAH, WELL, WE'LL SEE  
WHAT FIRESTAR HAS TO SAY ABOUT THIS! ~ = a . WHAT A  
GREAT YOU'RE GOING TO al ts oA a A WASTE FIRESTAR'S TIME  
WITH YOUR MADE-UP NONSENSE? HOW MOUSE-BRAINED ARE  
YOU? SPEAKING OF GETTING MORNINGS STARTED, WHERE'S  
OUR APPRENTICE? TIME FOR TRAINING — LET'S Go!

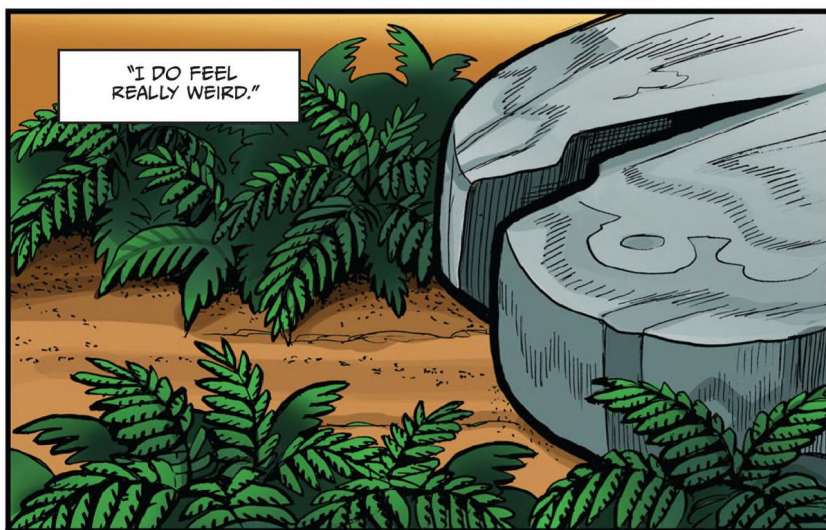




50! WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD WORK ON TODAY? IS IT TIME TO START TEACHING RAINFAW HOW TO HUNT IN TREES?



MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO THE MEDICINE DEN? LET CINDERPELT TAKE A LOOK AT YOU? INSTEAD OF HUNTING? “I DO FEEL REALLY WEIRD.” PROMISED I'D HELP WITH RAINPAW'S TRAINING. WELL, IF CINDERPELT SAYS NOTHING'S WRONG, THEN YOU/LL COME JOIN US. YEAH?



ALL RIGHT... I THINK WE'RE DONE HERE. YOU SHOULD  
COME BACK IN A FEW DAYS, : THOUGH, SO I CAN  
EXAMINE YOU AGAIN. I JUST LIKE TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR  
SYMPTOMS. NO, NO, NOT AT ALL. DON'T WORRY, AT THIS  
STAGE A LITTLE BORING AND IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL TO FEEL  
YOU'LL BE FINE. S STRANGE AND NAUSEATED... OR EVEN JUST  
NERVOUS AND UNSETTLED. 'AT THIS STAGE' OF WHAT?



ALL RIGHT...  
I THINK WE'RE DONE  
HERE.



WELL?  
IS ANYTHING  
WRONG?

NO, NO, NOT AT ALL.  
A LITTLE BORAGE AND  
YOU'LL BE FINE.



YOU SHOULD COME  
BACK IN A FEW DAYS,  
THOUGH, SO I CAN EXAMINE  
YOU AGAIN.

OH—  
OKAY. WHY?

I'D JUST LIKE TO KEEP  
AN EYE ON YOUR SYMPTOMS.  
DON'T WORRY, AT THIS STAGE  
IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL TO FEEL  
STRANGE AND NAUSEATED...

OR EVEN  
JUST NERVOUS AND  
UNSETTLED.

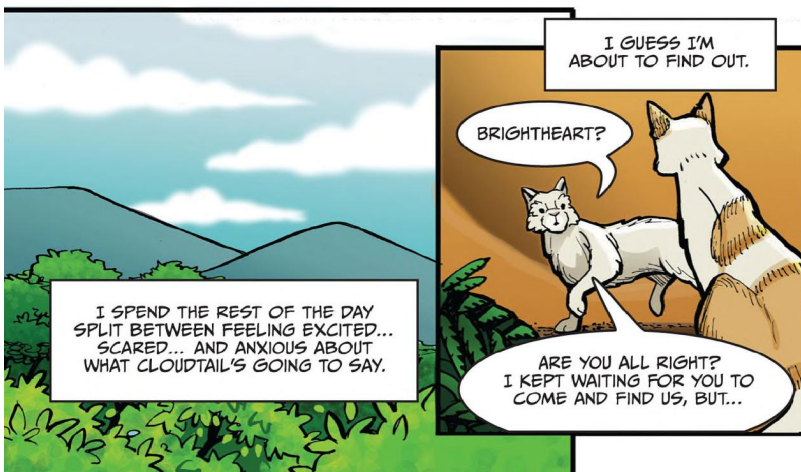


EXCUSE ME?

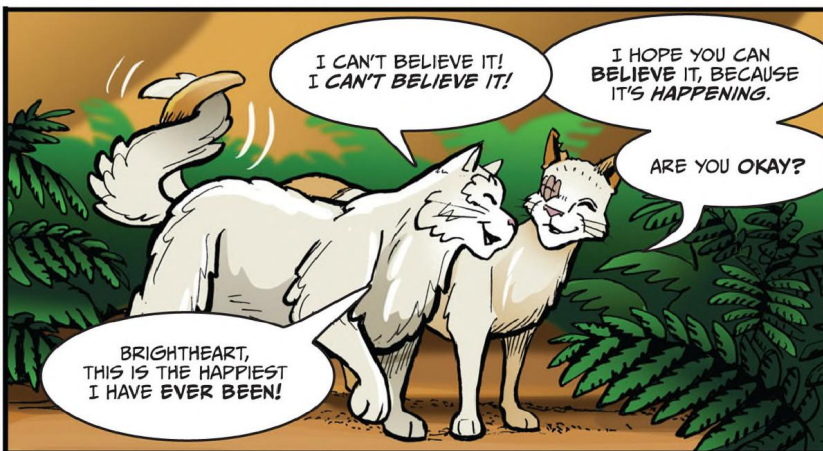
"AT THIS STAGE"  
OF WHAT?



1 SAID NOT TO WORRY! A LOT OF SHE-CATS FEEL APPREHENSIVE .-- WHEN THEY'RE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF EXPECTING KITS. THE FOREST... GOING TO BEA MOTHER! YES! I GUESS I'M ABOUT TO FIND OUT. I SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY SPLIT BETWEEN FEELING EXCITED... 1 SCARED... AND ANXIOUS ABOUT =H WHAT CLOUDTAIL'S GOING TO SAY. f ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ; I KEPT WAITING FOR YOU TO COME AND FIND US, BUT...

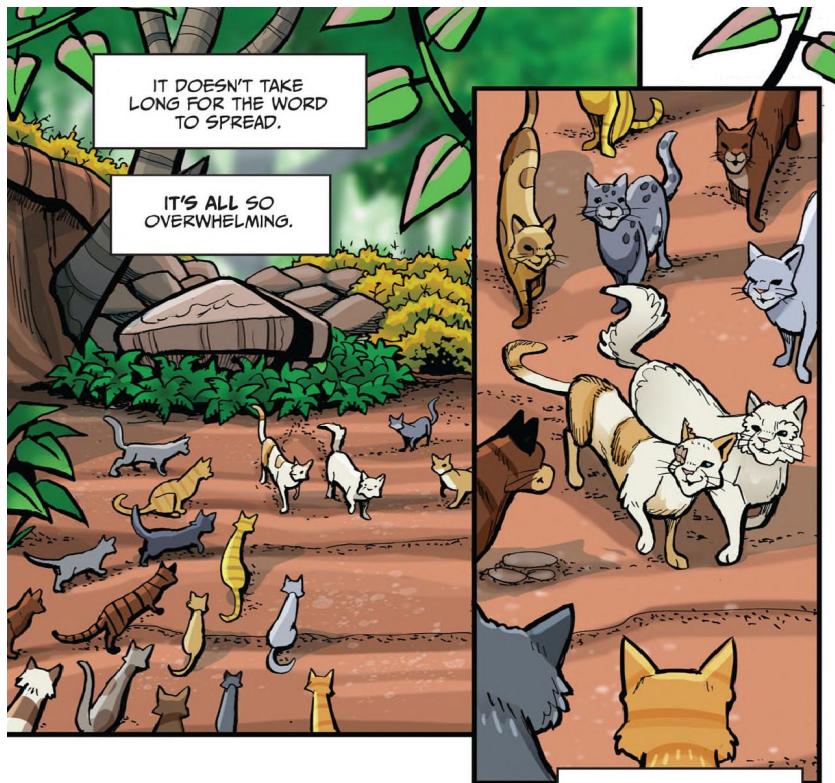


CLOUDTAIL, YOU'RE... WE'RE... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I HOPE YOU CAN / BELIEVE IT, BECAUSE I CAN'T BELIEVE 7! 11'S HAPPENING. ARE YOU OKAY? BRIGHTHEART, THIS IS THE HAPPIEST I HAVE EVER BEEN!



**The text on this page is estimated to be only 57.70% accurate**

eyz am. 7@ IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE WORD TO  
SPREAD. SSS IVS —a " oi | aD yO es =e - \* \\ \ J THRILLED. | |  
= ~ Ss A) YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE SUCH WONDERFUL  
PARENTS!





: eicglln gal IT'S GOING TO BE GREAT  
CONGRATULATIONS, HAVING ANOTHER MOTHER IN YOU TWO!  
\_~ THE NURSERY WITH MB! DON'T WORRY, TLL TELL YOU  
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW! THIS IS WONDERFUL NEWS,  
BRIGHTHEART, CLOUDTAIL. KITS ARE THE FUTURE AND  
STRENGTH OF THUNDERCLAN. — ZB? = CONGRATULATIONS. I  
FEEL LIKE... I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE EVERY MOTHER FEELS THIS  
WAY. BUT I THINK OUR KITS ARE GOING TO BE SPECIAL. AND  
WE'RE GOING TO PROTECT THEM, NO REAORETELE, MATTER  
WHAT.



HERE— E . NO, COME ON, TRUST ME, THIS WAY. I'S  
PERFECT. Pies ated) )) | OH, WOW, Y THIS IS YOU'RE RIGHT.  
PEREECT. WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON, I WAS  
SCARED... .-- BUT NOW THAT I BO KNOW — I FEEL GREAT/ FULL  
OF ENERGY. GOOD. WE'RE BOTH GOING TO NEED IT.



YOU THINK S50? YOU THINK OUR KITS ARE GOING TO BE LITTLE TERRORS? NO WAY TO KNOW. I'VE BEEN HOPING THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THEM IS A LITTLE SHE-KIT. I THINK IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE A DAUGHTER. --» THEY'RE GOING TO GROW UP TO BE THE BEST HUNTERS IN THE WHOLE CLAN. WELL, I THINK... WHETHER WE HAVE SHE-KITS OR TOMS... WITH US AS PARENTS, HOW COULD THEY NOT?

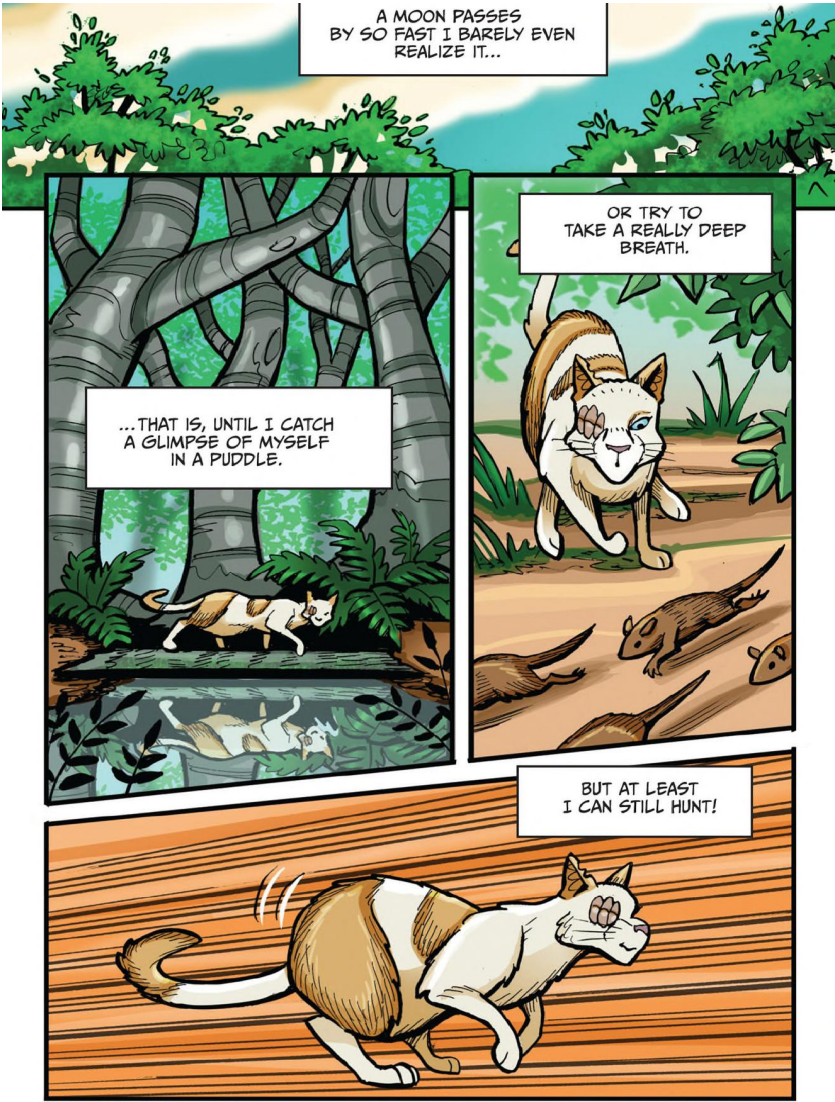


THEY'LL WANT TO PRACTICE BEFORE THEY'RE OLD ENOUGH TO LEAVE CAMP, YOU KNOW. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE HAVING MY TAIL PULLED, DO YOU NOT? HAHAPA... ' I DO KNOW THAT, YES. IN JUST A FEW MOONS, WE CAN TEACH OUR KITS TO CLIMB THIS TREE. THEY'LL BE ABLE TO CLIMB ANY TREE IN THE FOREST. I THINK WE SHOULD LET THEM HUNT YOUR TAL. AH, I WON'T MIND. NOT IF IT'S MY OWN KIT PULLING IT.



The text on this page is estimated to be only 72.23% accurate

A MOON PASSES BY SO FAST I BARELY EVEN REALIZE IT... fo — Se ae OR TRY TO m TAKE A REALLY DEEP BREATH. ke PVR .-> THAT IS, UNTIL A GLIMPSE OF IN A PUDDL



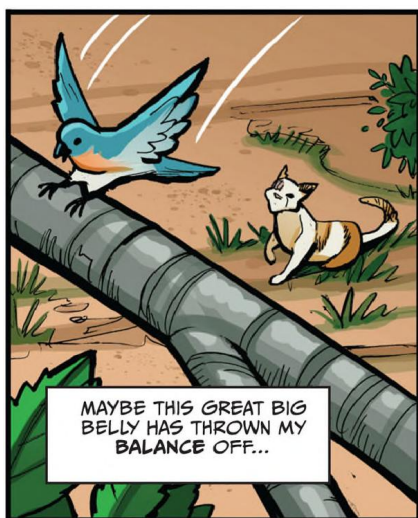
The text on this page is estimated to be only 68.32% accurate

| STARCLAN | w 2 9 ry < Ww AARGH, WHY CAN'T I — |  
w 4 wy x v4 rd ry 2 Q u

**The text on this page is estimated to be only 68.18% accurate**

ics Are Ae THEY'LL STILL TAKE ME AS HIGH y BALANCE  
OFF... AS I NEED TO GO — BELLY OR a = eS —S SSS ~~  
WHO'S THE BEST — — (JUMPER IN THUNDERCLAN?





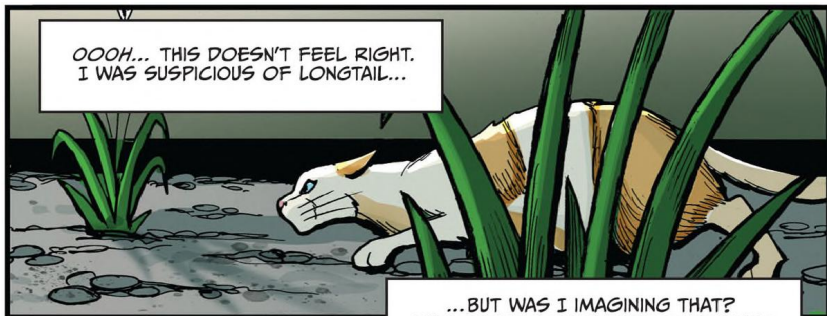
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/ HMM HMM HMM... BEST pai IN THE REES... HMM  
HMM HMM... CATCH BIRDIES WITH EASE... ; I RECOGNIZE THE  
CATS y LONGTAIL AND BRAMBLEPAW g ARE TALKING TO. Z peer  
HMM HMM HMM... BRIGHTHEART, IF YOU PLEASE... | Ay) py\



OOOH... THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT. | I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF LONGTAIL... -- BUT WAS I IMAGINING THAT? WAS I JUST FEELING WEIRD BECAUSE I'M PREGNANT? [\] RANI I WANT TO TRUST MY CLANMATES. BUT TIGERSTAR BETRAYED US... AND LONGTAIL WAS HIS FRIEND BACK THEN. -- TAWNYPAW AND BRAMBLEPAW ARE TIGERSTAR'S KITS. BRAMBLEPAW LOOKS ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE HIM. HOW HARD MUST IT BE TO BE LOYAL TO YOUR CLAN WHEN YOU HAVE KIN IN ANOTHER ONE?

OOOH... THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.  
I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF LONGTAIL...



...BUT WAS I IMAGINING THAT?  
WAS I JUST FEELING WEIRD BECAUSE  
I'M PREGNANT?



I WANT TO TRUST MY CLANMATES.  
BUT TIGERSTAR BETRAYED US...  
AND LONGTAIL WAS HIS FRIEND  
BACK THEN.



BESIDES THAT...

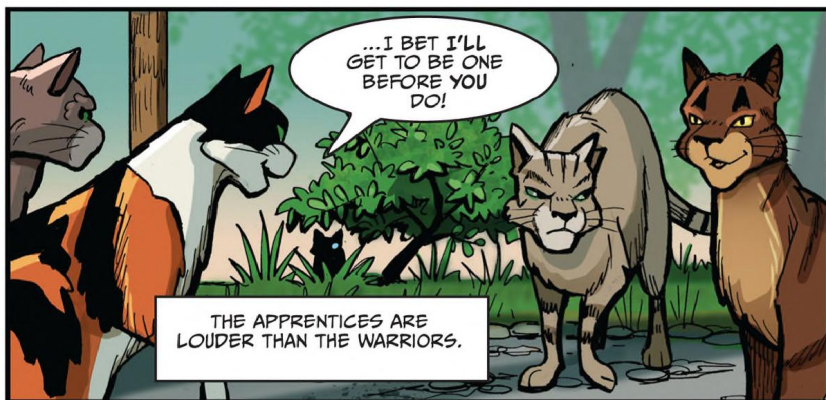
...TAWNYPAW AND BRAMBLEPAW  
ARE TIGERSTAR'S KITS.  
BRAMBLEPAW LOOKS ALMOST  
EXACTLY LIKE HIM.

HOW HARD MUST IT BE  
TO BE LOYAL TO YOUR CLAN  
WHEN YOU HAVE KIN IN  
ANOTHER ONE?

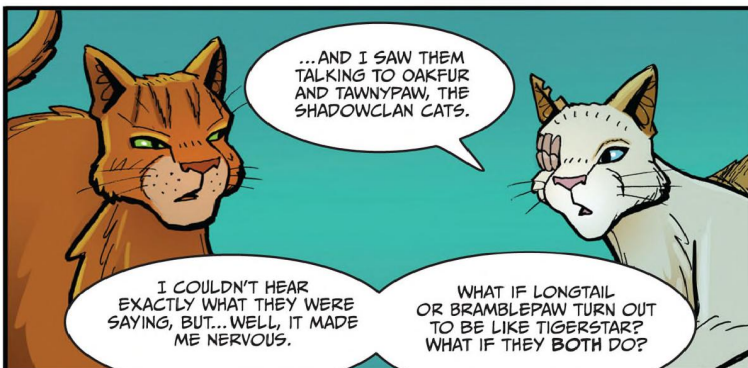


THIS IS HORRIBLE. AND FIRESTAR'S I LIKE LONGTAIL  
AND GOING TO MAKE ME BRAMBLEPAW. A WARRIOR SOON!  
BUT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I LIKED TIGERSTAR, TOO. ...I BET  
ILL GET TO BE ONE BEFORE YOU DO! THE APPRENTICES ARE  
LOUDER THAN THE WARRIORS. CAN'T QUITE MAKE OUT WHAT  
LONGTAIL AND ... JUST BITS AND PIECES. OAKFUR ARE  
SAYING... THEY COULD MEAN ANYTHING. IT COULD BE A  
TOTALLY INNOCENT CONVERSATION. IT PROBABLY IS.





BUT I THINK I SHOULD TALK TO FIRESTAR ANYWAY.  
FIRESTAR... MAY I HAVE A WORD? ..- AND I SAW THEM TALKING  
TO OAKFUR AND TAWNYPAW, THE SHADOWCLAN CATS. I  
COULDN'T HEAR IN. EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE OR  
BRAMBLEPAW TURN OUT SAYING, BUT... WELL, IT MADE TO BE  
LIKE TIGERSTAR? ME NERVOUS. WHAT IF THEY BOTH DO?

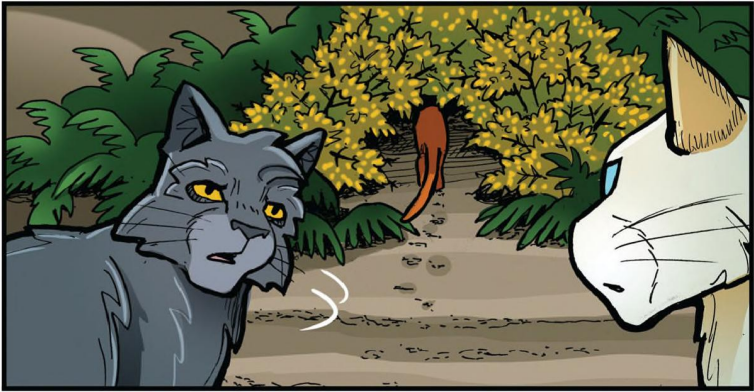


DON'T WORRY, THAT'S THE BRIGHTHEART. HAVE  
FAITH REAL STRENGTH OF A IN YOUR CLANMATES. CLAN.  
FAITH. BOTH IN NOW, IF YOU'LL Alegre PARDON ME, THERE'S  
SOMETHING I HAVE TO OTHER. am TAKE CARE OF. i > >. IS  
THAT IT? WE NEED TO DECIDE 'HAVE FAITH'? ON HOW TO  
REPAIR THOSE HOLES IN THE ELDERS' I SAID WE SHOULD STICK  
WITH THE BRANCHES, AS USUAL, J BUT THORNCLAW HAS  
SOME MOUSEBRAINED IDEA ABOUT WEAVING GRASS  
TOGETHER.





I'M SURE WHATEVER YOU THINK IS FINE. I'M SORRY,  
GRAYSTRIPE, BUT I'VE GOT TO GO AND... -- PATROL.



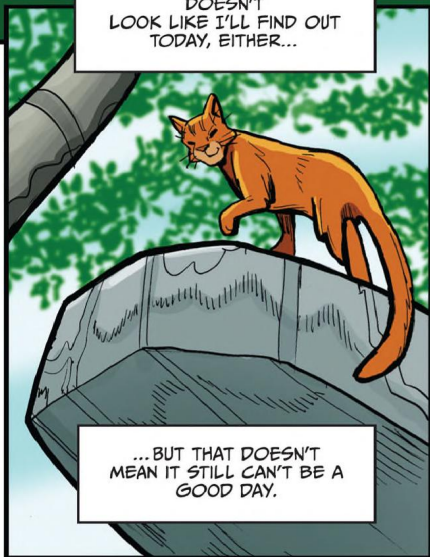


I COULDN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF WHY FIRESTAR  
INES! Fle ener COULDN'T TELL IF HE MEANT IT... OR IF MAYBE  
THERE WAS SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT HE DIDN'T  
WANT TO TELL ME. DOE LOOK LIKE I'/LL FIND OUT TODAY,  
EITHER... ..- BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT STILL CAN'T BE A  
GOOD DAY. FROM THIS MOMENT, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS  
BRAMBLECLAW. STARCLAN HONORS YOUR COURAGE AND  
YOUR LOYALTY, AND WE WELCOME YOU AS A FULL WARRIOR  
OF THUNDERCLAN.

I COULDN'T MAKE HEADS  
OR TAILS OF WHY FIRESTAR  
WAS ACTING SO ODDLY.

COULDN'T TELL IF HE *MEANT* IT...  
OR IF MAYBE THERE *WAS* SOMETHING  
TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT HE DIDN'T  
WANT TO *TELL* ME.

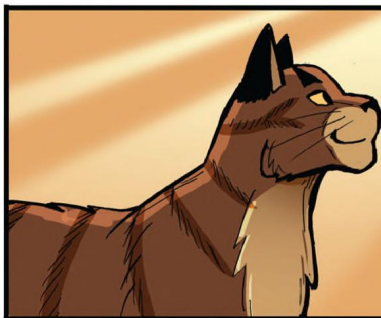
DOESN'T  
LOOK LIKE I'LL FIND OUT  
TODAY, EITHER...



... BUT THAT DOESN'T  
MEAN IT STILL CAN'T BE A  
GOOD DAY.



FROM THIS MOMENT,  
YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS  
**BRAMBLECLAW.**



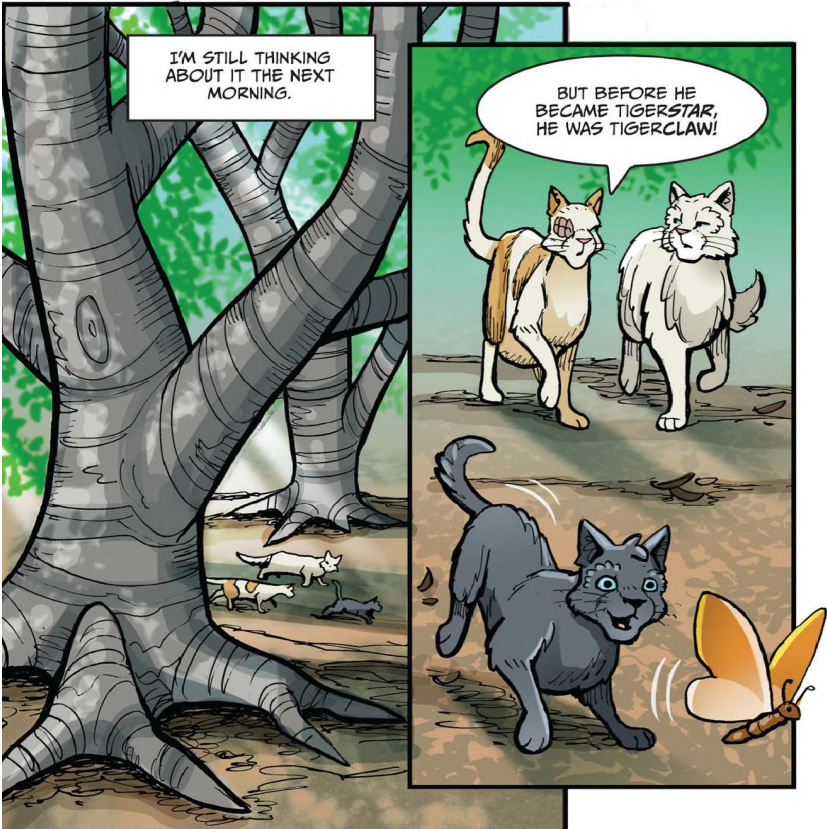
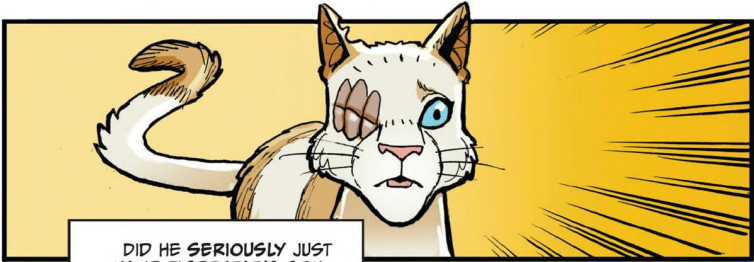
STARCLAN HONORS YOUR  
COURAGE AND YOUR LOYALTY,  
AND WE WELCOME YOU AS A FULL  
WARRIOR OF THUNDERCLAN.

The text on this page is estimated to be only 31.39% accurate

M BRAMBLECLAW! VN Sra ed S Ly: a g a } S ; | a 5, | t 7 )  
| - a : i aical! ' ) ; ii a BRAMBLECLAW! — y, Ss ' = > \ \ ) 4 \



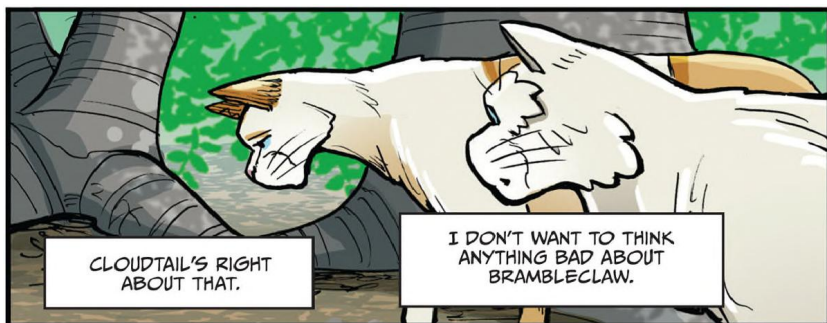
DID HE SERIOUSLY JUST NAME TIGERSTAR'S SON...  
BRAMBLECLAW? T= w4 IM STILL THINKING ABOUT IT THE  
NEXT MORNING. BUT BEFORE HE BECAME TIGERSTAR, HE WAS  
TIGERCLAW!



DOES THAT NOT STRIKE YOU AS A TERRIBLE \DEAP  
GIVING TIGERSTAR'S KIT — WHO ALREADY LOOKS JUST LIKE  
HIS FATHER — A NAME SO CLOSE TO HIS FATHER'S WARRIOR  
NAME? HE MIGHT WANT THUNDERCLAN VTO ACCEPT THAT  
BRAMBLECLAW IS TIGERSTAR'S SON, AND THEN — WELL — GET  
OVER IT. MAYBE THE NAME IS PART OF THAT. LOOK, I DON'T  
NECESSARILY TRUST LONGTAIL, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE  
ANYTHING BAD ABOUT BRAMBLECLAW! HE'S PROVEN THAT  
HE'S NOTHING LIKE HIS FATHER.

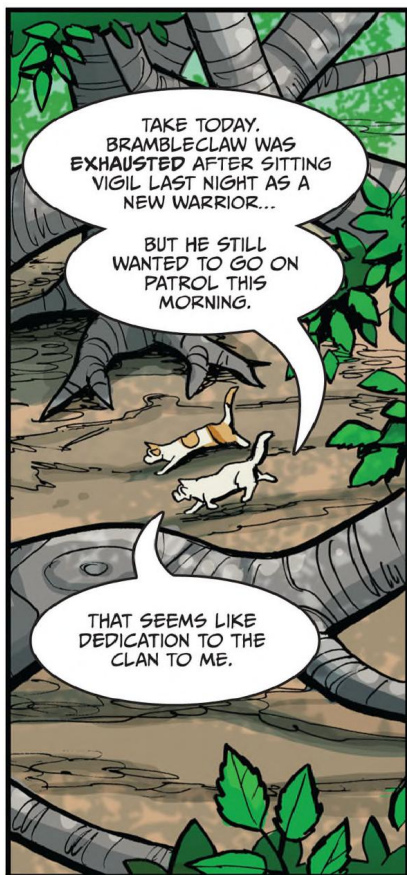






CLOUDTAIL'S RIGHT  
ABOUT THAT.

I DON'T WANT TO THINK  
ANYTHING BAD ABOUT  
BRAMBLECLAW.



TAKE TODAY.  
BRAMBLECLAW WAS  
EXHAUSTED AFTER SITTING  
VIGIL LAST NIGHT AS A  
NEW WARRIOR...

BUT HE STILL  
WANTED TO GO ON  
PATROL THIS  
MORNING.

THAT SEEMS LIKE  
DEDICATION TO THE  
CLAN TO ME.



YSIGH



I CAN'T STOP  
FEELING UNEASY.  
I DON'T KNOW  
WHY.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THERE  
WASN'T ANY FRESH-KILL ON  
THE PILE THIS MORNING. AGAIN.  
MAYBE I'M JUST HUNGRY.

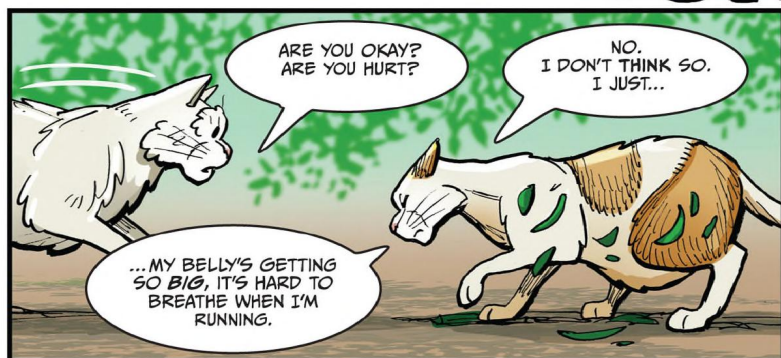
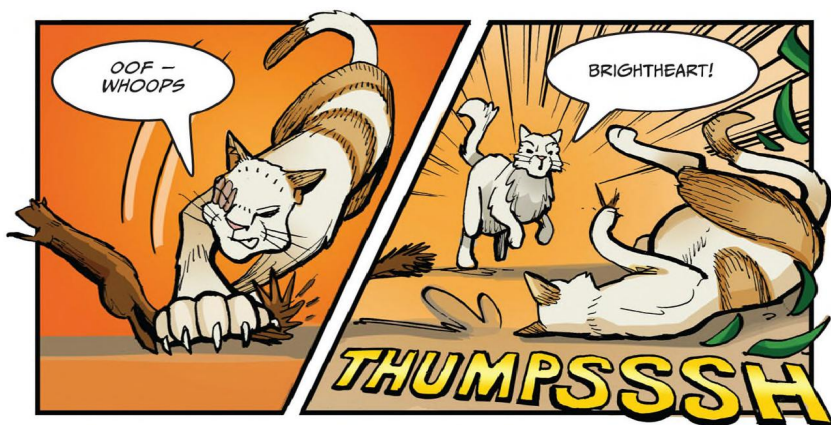
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gee THERE“ S THAT'S WEIRD. THERE WAS PLENTY N  
THERE LAST NIGHT. SS = | = col OOH, —= 4 THERE SURE |5!



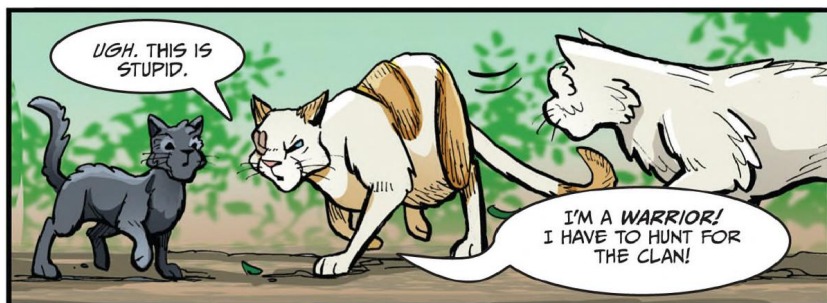


"iq OOF — WHOOPS ---MY BELLY'S GETTING SO BIG, IT'S HARD TO BREATHE WHEN I'M RUNNING. WHY DON'T WE GO BACK TO CAMP NOW?

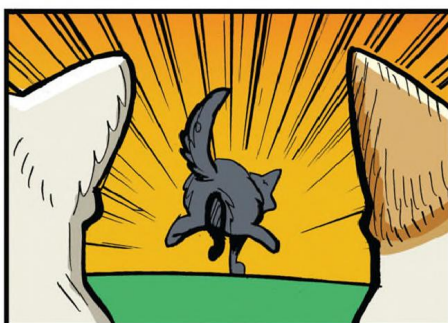


YEAH, BUT YOU JUST SAID IT YOURSELF — YOU'RE PREGNANT. THAT SHOULDN'T... DSIGHE IT SHOULDN'T MATTER. YOU DID. UVE PROVEN THEM WRONG \ OVER AND OVER, ye I'M A WARRIORS I HAVE TO HUNT FOR THE CLAN! MY EYE, I'VE WANTED TO PROVE THAT I'M EVERY BIT AS GOOD A WARRIOR AS I WOULD'VE BEEN WITH BOTH EYES. BUT I PROVED THEM ALL WRONG. BUT NOW ITS YOUR TURN TO RELY ON THE REST OF THE CLAN. THAT'S WHAT BEING PART OF A CLAN MEANS, ISN'T IT? CARING FOR EACH OTHER?





BUT I STILL YES, THAT'S WANT TO BE ABLE TO WHAT IT  
MEANS. CONTRIBUTE. YOU HEARD HIM. a Lees WE'D BETTER  
NOT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT... GET IN HIS WAY, THAT  
STUFF... I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT. ALL RIGHT, RAINPAW.  
SHOW US WHAT YOU .-- BUT I CAN CATCH ANOTHER SQUIRREL.  
YOU'VE BOTH TAUGHT ME REALLY WELL!



RAINPAW WASN'T LYING. I WAS GOING TO REST HE BROUGHT DOWN A NICE, PLUMP ONCE WE GOT BACK TO SQUIRREL IN NO TIME FLAT. -- BUT THEN I THOUGHT MAYBE MY SISTER THE MEDICINE CAT MIGHT HAVE SOME KIND OF HERB THAT WOULD HELP ME. YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M SERIOUS. IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL TO BE ALITTLE CLUMSY AND SHORT OF BREATH AS YOU GET CLOSER TO THE KITS BEING BORN. ANY OTHER PROBLEMS YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME ABOUT? I'VE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING...



RAINPAW WASN'T LYING.  
HE BROUGHT DOWN A NICE, PLUMP  
SQUIRREL IN NO TIME FLAT.




I WAS *GOING* TO REST  
ONCE WE GOT BACK TO  
CAMP...

...BUT THEN I THOUGHT MAYBE  
MY SISTER THE MEDICINE CAT  
MIGHT HAVE SOME KIND OF  
HERB THAT WOULD HELP ME.



YOU SHOULDN'T  
WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M  
SERIOUS.

IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL  
TO BE A LITTLE CLUMSY AND  
SHORT OF BREATH AS YOU  
GET CLOSER TO THE KITS  
BEING BORN.



ANY OTHER  
PROBLEMS YOU'D  
LIKE TO TELL ME  
ABOUT?



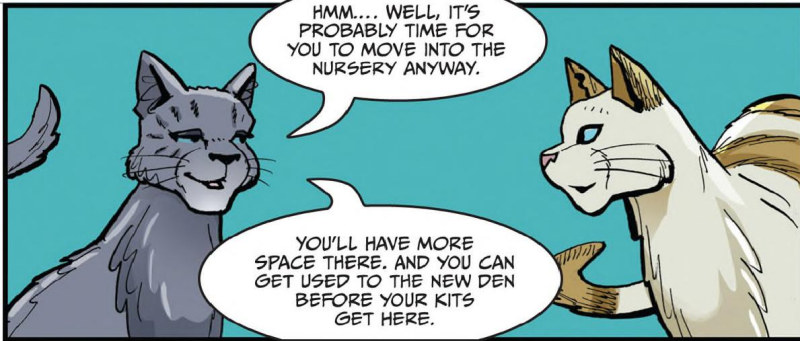
WELL...  
I'VE BEEN HAVING  
TROUBLE SLEEPING...



I'M SCARED I'VE BEEN KEEPING THE WHOLE  
WARRIORS' DEN AWAKE WITH ALL MY TOSSING AND 4  
TURNING. a 7} ) Bt TH rT — BELTON HMM.... WELL, IT'S  
PROBABLY TIME FOR YOU TO MOVE INTO THE NURSERY  
ANYWAY. YOU'LL HAVE MORE SPACE THERE. AND YOU CAN  
GET USED TO THE NEW DEN BEFORE YOUR KITS GET HERE.  
OUR MOTHER ALWAYS SAYS THE BEST SLEEP SHE EVER GOT  
WAG IN THE NURSERY BEFORE WE WERE BORN.



I'M SCARED  
I'VE BEEN KEEPING THE  
WHOLE WARRIORS' DEN AWAKE  
WITH ALL MY TOSsing AND  
TURNING.



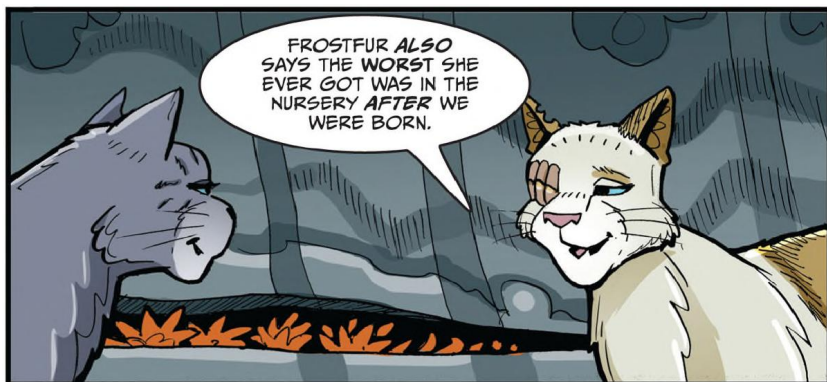
HMM... WELL, IT'S  
PROBABLY TIME FOR  
YOU TO MOVE INTO THE  
NURSERY ANYWAY.

YOU'LL HAVE MORE  
SPACE THERE. AND YOU CAN  
GET USED TO THE NEW DEN  
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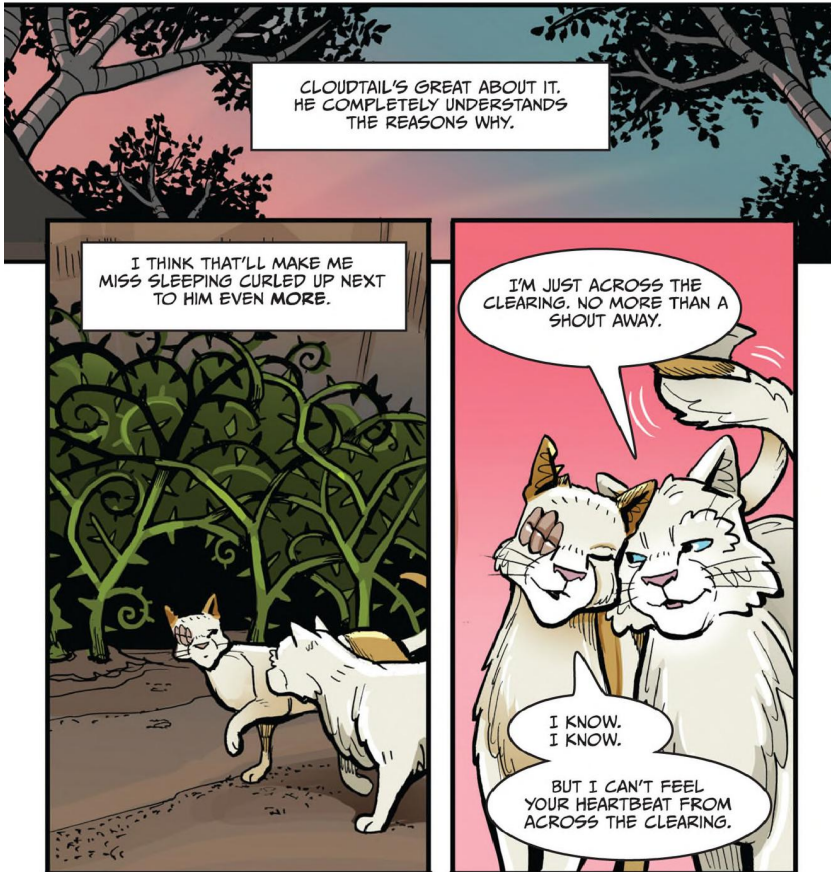


OUR MOTHER ALWAYS  
SAYS THE BEST SLEEP SHE  
EVER GOT WAS IN THE NURSERY  
BEFORE WE WERE BORN.

FROSTFUR ALSO SAYS THE WORST SHE EVER GOT WAG  
IN THE NURSERY AFTER WE WERE BORN. I DON'T KNOW... I  
DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF BEING SEPARATED FROM  
CLOUDTAIL... WHICH IS f WHY YOU SHOULD GET j OR LEAVING  
AS MUCH REST AS THE OTHER POSSIBLE NOW! ian WARRIORG...  
--- BUT I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

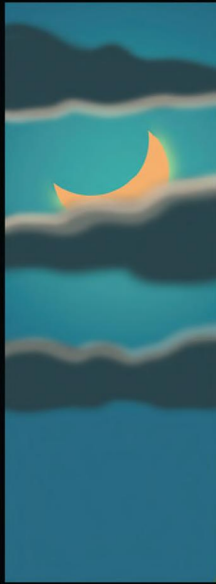


I MAKE THE : MOVE THAT NIGHT. CA CLOUDTAIL'S GREAT ABOUT IT. HE COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDS THE REASONS WHY. I THINK THAT'//LL MAKE ME —~ MISS SLEEPING CURLED UP NEXT IM JUST ACROSS THE N\ TO HIM EVEN MORE. ({ CLEARING. NO MORE THAN A ) SHOUT AWAY. BUT I CAN'T FEEL YOUR HEARTBEAT FROM ACROSS THE CLEARING.





I'D BETTER. ONCE THE KITS ARE BORN, I MAY NEVER SLEEP 50 MUCH FOR "THE BEST SLEEP I'VE EVER HAD."



TLL HAVE TO FIND OUT ip FERNCLOUD'S SECRET TO  
[Jae A RESTFUL NIGHT. a' I CAN'T BEAK TO WAKE HER UP,  
THOUGH. YEAH, THIS IF POINTLESS. MAYBE IF I HAVE A NICE  
FAT a I'M EATING FOR VOLE. IT'LL MAKE ME SLEEPY. MORE  
THAN ONE NOW, ANYWAY.



UGH.



I'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT  
FERNCLOUD'S SECRET TO  
A RESTFUL NIGHT.



I CAN'T BEAR TO WAKE  
HER UP, THOUGH.



YEAH, THIS IS  
POINTLESS.



MAYBE IF I HAVE A NICE FAT  
VOLE. IT'LL MAKE ME SLEEPY.

I'M EATING FOR  
MORE THAN ONE  
NOW, ANYWAY.

HMM. LONGTAIL'S ON DUTY TONIGHT. HAVEN'T  
SPOKEN TO HIM SINCE I TRIED TO TALK TO FIRESTAR ABOUT  
HIM... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FRESH-KILL PILEP ..- BUT HE'S  
GIVEN ME NO REASON TO THINK HE'S DONE ANYTHING WR — I  
KNOW THERE WAS PLENTY THERE AT NIGHTFALL.



HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO HIM  
SINCE I TRIED TO TALK TO  
FIRESTAR ABOUT HIM...



...BUT HE'S GIVEN ME NO  
REASON TO THINK HE'S DONE  
ANYTHING WR -



WHAT HAPPENED TO  
THE FRESH-KILL PILE?



I KNOW THERE WAS  
PLENTY THERE AT  
NIGHTFALL.



LONGTAIL! WHERE'S ALL THE PREY? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S LOTS OF FRESH-KILL OVER THERE, NOT ANYMORE THERE ISN'T! IT'S ALL GONE! THAT'S RIDICULOUS! NO CAT COULD/VE EATEN THAT MUCH PREY SO QUICKLY! OH YEAH? THEN WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? HUH. SOME CAT MUST'VE BEEN HUNGRY WHILE I WAS CHECKING FOR TRESPASSERS OUTSIDE CAMP.



LONGTAIL!

WHERE'S ALL  
THE PREY?



WHAT'RE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?  
THERE'S LOTS OF  
FRESH-KILL OVER  
THERE.

NOT ANYMORE  
THERE ISN'T! IT'S  
ALL GONE!



HUH. SOME CAT  
MUST'VE BEEN HUNGRY  
WHILE I WAS CHECKING  
FOR TRESPASSERS  
OUTSIDE CAMP.



THAT'S RIDICULOUS!  
NO CAT COULD'VE EATEN THAT  
MUCH PREY SO QUICKLY!

OH YEAH?  
THEN WHAT'RE YOU  
*SAYING?*

SOMETHING CATCHES ae LONGTAIL AND OAKFUR BY  
THE FIRE IN MY MIND. THUNDERPATH, TALKING ABOUT  
“BORDERS” AND “PREY”... I CTY BRAMBLECLAW GUARDED THE  
CAMP THAT NIGHT — AND THE PILE TURNED UP EMPTY THE  
NEXT MORNING! I'M SAYING YOU'VE BEEN G/VING AWAY  
THUNDERCLANS PREY. AND YOU'VE DRAGGED BRAMBLECLAW  
INTO IT!

SOMETHING CATCHES  
FIRE IN MY MIND.

LONGTAIL AND OAKFUR BY THE  
THUNDERPATH, TALKING ABOUT  
"BORDERS" AND "PREY"...

BRAMBLECLAW GUARDED  
THE CAMP THAT NIGHT — AND  
THE PILE TURNED UP EMPTY  
THE NEXT MORNING!



I'M SAYING YOU'VE  
BEEN *GIVING AWAY*  
THUNDERCLAN'S PREY.



AND  
YOU'VE DRAGGED  
BRAMBLECLAW  
INTO IT!

JUST BECAUSE HE'S TIGERSTAR'S SON, DOESN'T MEAN HE OWES SHADOWCLAN ANYTHING! NOW YOU MAYBE I LISTEN HERES WAS CLOSE TO . TIGERSTAR. ONCE. BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL TO THUNDERCLAN, AND I WON'T HAVE ANY CAT SAYING DIFFERENT! AS FOR OAKFUR AND TAWNYPAW, THERE'S NO RULE AGAINST BEING FRIENDLY WITH CATS FROM OTHER CLANS! STARCLAN ABOVE, BRIGHTHEART! I WOULD NEVER GIVE AWAY THUNDERCLAN'S PREY! NEVER!





I WANT TO WELL, THE PREY IS STILL BELIEVE HIM. GONE. SO SOME CAT MUST HAVE STOLEN IT ALL, AND THAT CAT IS ENDANGERING THE WHOLE CLAN. IF ITS NOT YOU... AND I HATE NOT TRUSTING A CLANMATE. WAO /8 IT? I DON'T KNOW. BUT I SWEAR BY THE WARRIOR CODE. I SWEAR BY STARCLAN... IT WAS NOT ME. WELL, IM GOING TO GO TALK TO FIRESTAR. MAYBE HE CAN FIGURE THIS OUT.



FINDING FIRESTAR TURNED OUT TO BE DIFFICULT. HE'S PATROLLING, GRAYSTRIPE SAID. SO HE COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THE FOREST. eee MY — = C GID ~ : < < = e a, 7) LUCKY FOR US, WE'RE BOTH EXCELLENT [f HUNTERS. SO, UH.. RAINPAWS TRAINING IS STILL GOING WELL. NOT TO MENTION, I THINK MY SENSE OF SMELL HAS GOTTEN EVEN BETTER SINCE I'VE BEEN PREGNANT. HE'S LEARNING FAST. IF WE DO FIND FIRESTAR WAY OUT HERE, AT LEAST ITLL BE A CHANCE TO TALK IN PRIVATE.



SO, UH...  
RAINPAW'S TRAINING IS  
STILL GOING WELL.

HE'S  
LEARNING FAST.

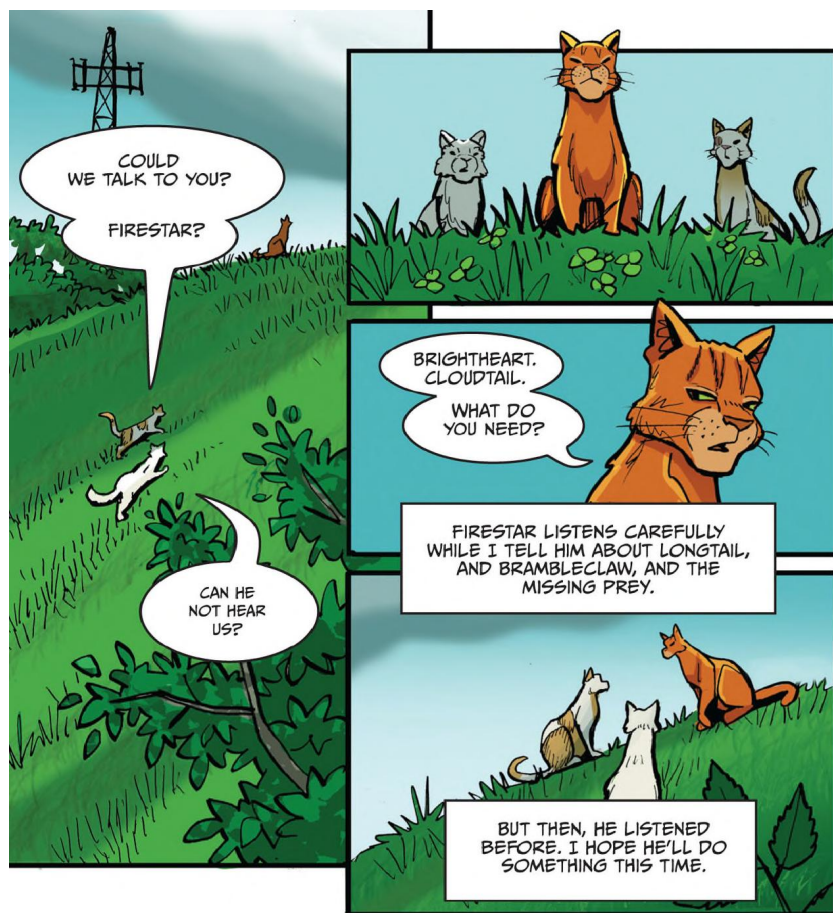


I WISH I COULD HAVE HELPED OUT MORE. I LIKED TRAINING HIM. HE'S A GOOD APPRENTICE — I THINK HE'LL BE A GOOD WARRIOR. FIRESTAR?

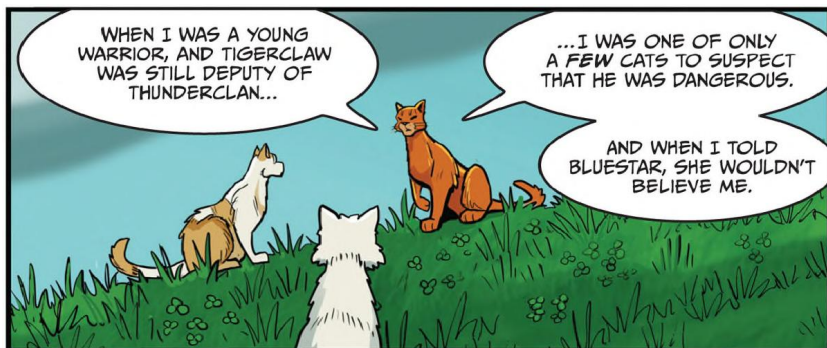




BRIGHTHEART. CLOUDTAIL. WHAT DO YOU NEED? FIRESTAR LISTENS CAREFULLY WHILE I TELL HIM ABOUT LONGTAIL, AND BRAMBLECLAW, AND THE MISSING PREY. NOT HEAR US? BUT THEN, HE LISTENED BEFORE. I HOPE HE'LL DO SOMETHING THIS TIME. LOOK, BRIGHTHEART... I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL SUSPICIOUS OF SOME CAT, AND THEN FIND OUT NO OTHER CATS BELIEVE YOU.



WHEN I WAS A YOUNG = ; \_L WAS ONE OF ONLY  
WARRIOR, AND TIGERCLAW A FEW CATS TO SUSPECT WAS  
STILL DEPUTY OF THUNDERCLAN... THAT HE WAS DANGEROUS.  
AND WHEN I TOLD BLUESTAR, SHE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME. I  
DON'T WANT TO BE A LEADER WHO WON'T LISTEN. BUT LET ME  
ASK YOU THIS — — ARE YOU SURE, IF YOU CONSIDER  
EVERYTHING YOU'VE SEEN, THAT LONGTAIL OR BRAMBLECLAW  
|S A DANGER TO THUNDERCLAN? DID YOU SEE EITHER 29  
THEM GIVE PRET AYE I DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF. OR HEAR  
THEM SAYING THEY HAD, OR THAT THEY WERE GOING TOP

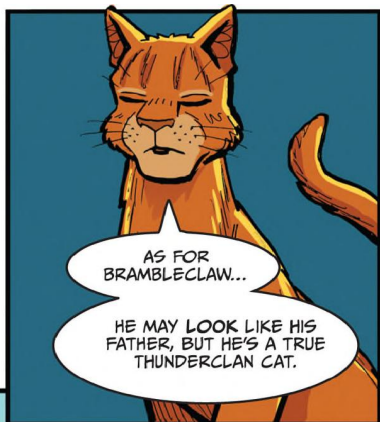


I JUST DON'T LIKE HOW CLOSE LONGTAIL AND  
BRAMBLECLAW ARE TO SHADOWCLAN CATS. BUT PROOF OR  
NOT, FRESH-KILL IS STILL GOING MISSING! IM NOT IMAGINING  
THATS (\ 5 — —\_— if ait AY ANN ATUL MUA, A| BUT I HAVE  
FAITH IN BRIGHTHEART, YOU CAN LONGTAIL AND  
BRAMBLECLAW. ALWAYS COME TO ME, OR I'M NOT GOING TO  
ACCUSE THEM TO GRAYSTRIPE, IF YOU OF ANYTHING  
WITHOUT REAL HAVE CONCERNS. ABOUT EVIDENCE.  
ANYTHING. AND DON'T WORRY LONGTAIL MAY NOT ABOUT A  
FEW PIECES OF MISSING PREY. I'M SURE THERE'S palate gel bad  
aes AN EXPLANATION. THE CLAN. ... AND YES, HE WAS CLOSE  
TO TIGERSTAR AT THE TIME. HE TURNED HIS BACK ON BUT  
LONGTAIL TIGERSTAR WHEN TIGERSTAR HAS ALWAYS PUT HIS  
BETRAYED US, AND FOUGHT CLAN FIRST. VALIANTLY AGAINST  
HIM.





AND THE OTHER THING? AS FOR BRAMBLECLAW... HE MAY LOOK LIKE HIS FATHER, BUT HE'S A TRUE THUNDERCLAN CAT. WE, UH... WE'RE SORRY, FIRESTAR, BUT WE HAVE TO ASK. WHY DID YOU GIVE BRAMBLECLAW PART OF HIS FATHER'S NAME? WON'T THAT JUST REMIND THUNDERCLAN THAT BRAMBLECLAW IS A TRAITORS KIT? BELIEVE ME, NO CAT HAS FORGOTTEN WHO BRAMBLECLAW'S FATHER WAS. BUT HE SHOULDN'T BE ASHAMED.



EVERY CAT'S PAST — EVERY CLANS PAST — SHAPES THEM... AND THEY HAVE TO : I TRUST REMEMBER IT EVEN AS EVERY CAT THEY MOVE ON. IN THUNDERCLAN. I HAVE TO... OTHERWISE, WHAT'S THE POINT OF A CLAN? NOW, I MUST RETURN TO TO TALK TO CINDERPELT. ABOUT WHAT, EXACTLY? WELL... ALL OF IT. EVERYTHING HE SAID. MOVING ON FROM THE PAST. I WOULDN'T BE THE CAT I AM IF NOT FOR THE DOG ATTACK. » AS HORRIBLE AS IT WAS.



EVERY CAT'S PAST —  
EVERY *CLAN'S* PAST —  
SHAPES THEM...

AND THEY HAVE TO  
REMEMBER IT EVEN AS  
THEY MOVE ON.

I TRUST  
**EVERY CAT**  
IN THUNDERCLAN.

I **HAVE** TO...  
OTHERWISE, WHAT'S  
THE POINT OF A  
CLAN?



NOW, I MUST  
RETURN TO  
CAMP.

I NEED  
TO TALK TO  
CINDERPELT.



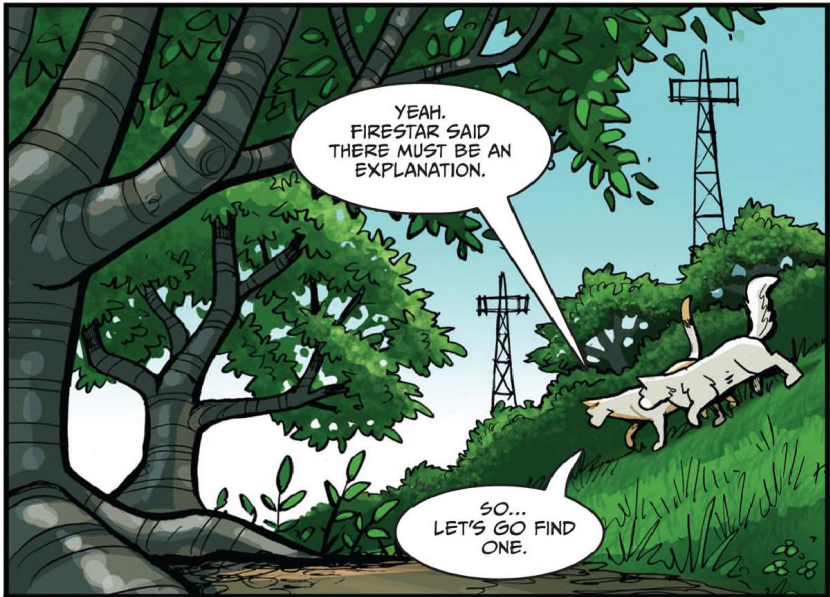
HE'S RIGHT.

ABOUT WHAT,  
EXACTLY?

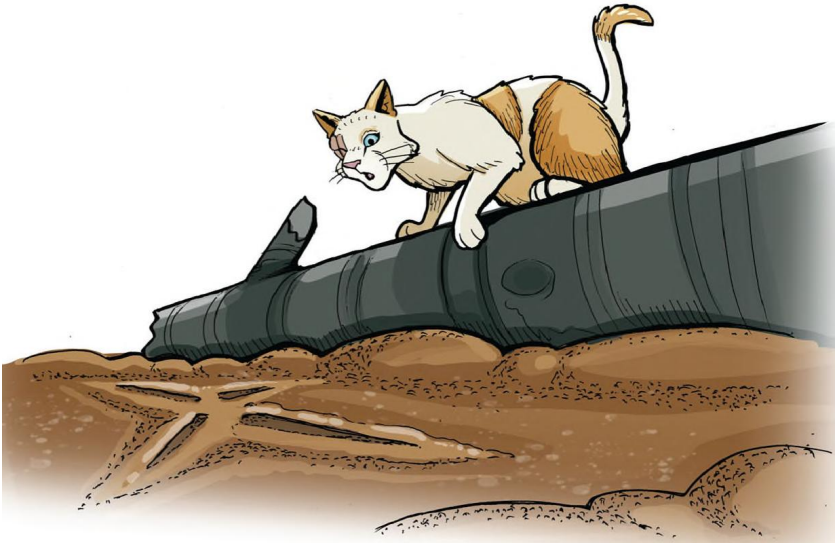
WELL...  
ALL OF IT. EVERYTHING  
HE SAID. MOVING ON  
FROM THE PAST.

I WOULDN'T BE THE CAT I AM  
IF NOT FOR THE DOG ATTACK.  
AS HORRIBLE AS IT WAS.

JANT HAVE AS MUCH FAITH AS FIRESTAR DOES. SOME CAT |S I NEED To. STILL STEALING PREY, THOUGH. YEAH. FIRESTAR SAID THERE MUST BE AN EXPLANATION. pho! ey ‘ i tt ¢ en Wy





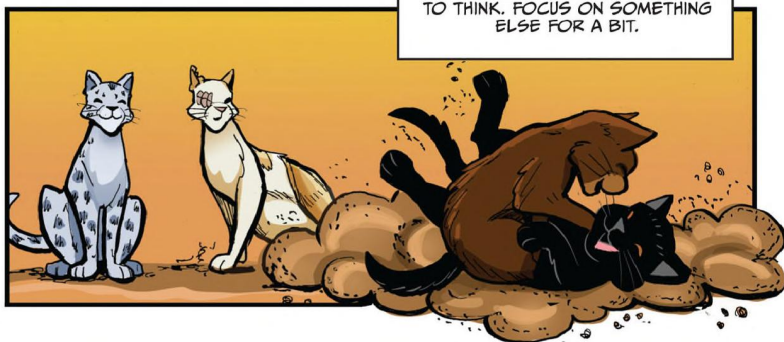
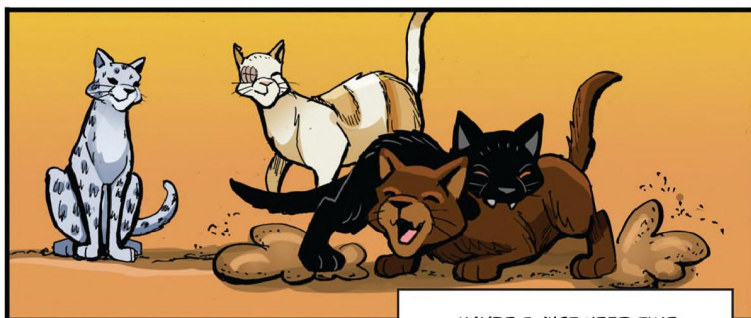


The text on this page is estimated to be only 74.13% accurate

I FINALLY GOT SOME DECENT SLEEP IN THE NURSERY.  
ay, GY pe i ~ ~ ~ = NOW IT'S TIME TO FIND THIS TA/EF >. \* wi  
“Md ef BUT HOW? BRAMBLECLAW WAS ON GUARD DUTY LAST  
NIGHT, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY PREY WAS STOLEN.



OR DID IT SCARE THEM INTO BEING MORE CAREFUL  
WHEN I CONFRONTED LONGTAIL? DOES THAT MEAN HE  
REALLY ISN'T INVOLVED? MAYBE I JUST NEED TIME TO THINK.  
FOCUS ON SOMETHING ELSE FORK A BIT.

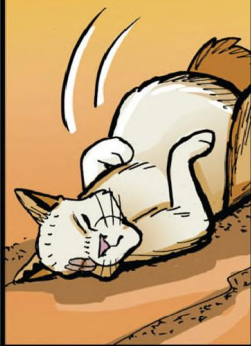


NOPE, THIS REMINDS ME THAT'S NOT OF THE DAYS AFTER WORKING. THE DOG ATTACK... UGH... WAY AM I SO RESTLESS? --- WHEN EVERY CAT THOUGHT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BE A WARRIOR ANYMORE. I JUST HATE BEING FORCED TO WHEN BLUESTAR WANTED ME STAY IN CAMP. TO RETIRE TO THE ELDERS' DEN. THIS IS ONLY TEMPORARY. TRY TO BRIGHTHEART... KEEP THAT IN MIND. Wei Gor re IN LESS THAN A MOON YOUR FUR. YOUR KITS WILL BE HERE, AND TRUST ME, YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY TO DO.

NOPE,  
THAT'S NOT  
WORKING.



UGH... WHY AM I  
SO RESTLESS?



THIS REMINDS ME  
OF THE DAYS AFTER  
THE DOG ATTACK...



... WHEN EVERY CAT THOUGHT  
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BE  
A WARRIOR ANYMORE.

WHEN BLUESTAR WANTED ME  
TO RETIRE TO THE ELDER'S DEN.



BRIGHTHEART...  
YOU LOOK LIKE  
YOU'VE GOT ANTS IN  
YOUR FUR.

YSIGH

I JUST HATE  
BEING FORCED TO  
STAY IN CAMP.

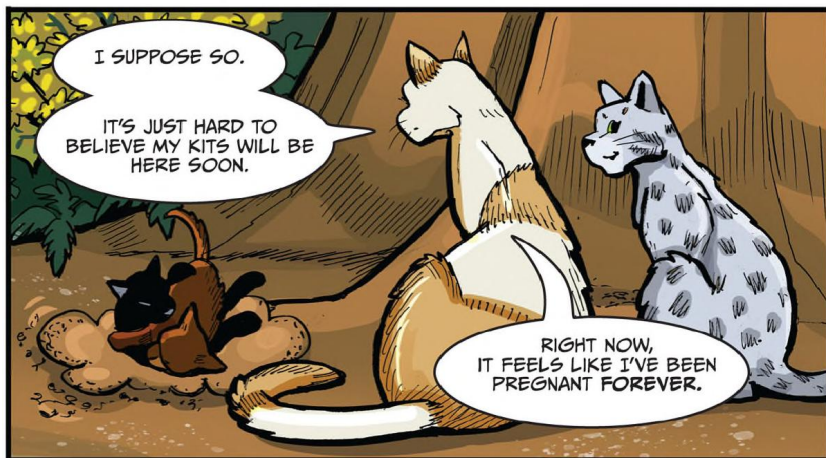
THIS IS ONLY  
TEMPORARY. TRY TO  
KEEP THAT IN MIND.

IN LESS THAN A MOON  
YOUR KITS WILL BE HERE,  
AND TRUST ME, YOU'LL HAVE  
PLENTY TO DO.





BESIDES, THOSE KITS WILL GROW UP SO FAST. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET WND LOOK AT IT THIS WAY — BACK TO BEING A WARRIOR \ f YOU'RE NOT LOSING BEFORE YOU KNOW IT. A ANYTHING. YOU'/RE GAINING ) SOMETHING. ITS JUST HARD TO BELIEVE MY KITS WILL BE HERE SOON. RIGHT NOW, IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN PREGNANT FOREVER.



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AAAAGH MY EYES!



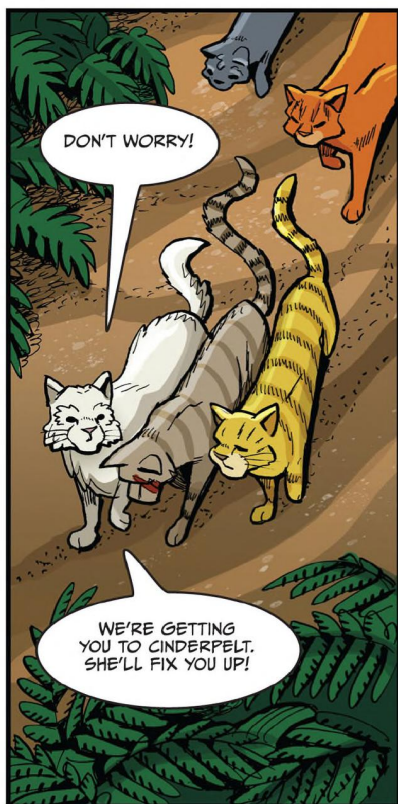
The text on this page is estimated to be only 60.53% accurate

? HANG ON, LONGTAIL! WE'RE ALMOST THERE! tA  
WHAT HAPPENED? an Y be ' a } Ww L "Al





WE WERE OUT HUNTING! LONGTAIL CAUGHT A RABBIT, AND IT TWISTED AROUND ON HIM AND SCRATCHED HIS EYES! DON'T WORRY! WE'RE GETTING YOU TO CINDERPELT. SHE'LL FIX YOU UP!





The text on this page is estimated to be only 56.23% accurate

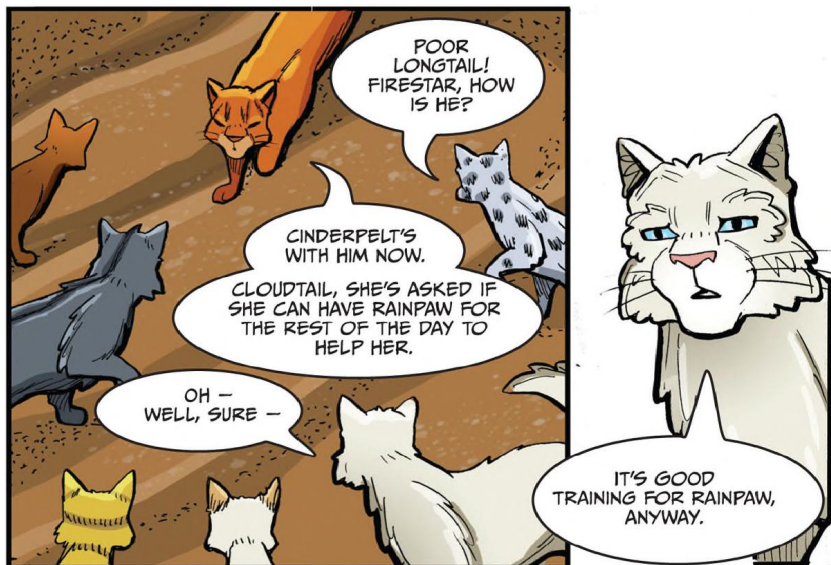
A RABBIT SCRATCHED LONGTAIL'S EYES! & EAN a oe  
Fou Zf Q o



LONGTAIL CAUGHT A RABBIT — A BIG ONE. BUT  
BEFORE He COULD KILL IT, THE Na RABBIT TWISTED... ae ee I'M  
AFRAID... ... AND SCRATCHED / ...'M AFRAID THE HIM RIGHT IN  
THE RABBIT MIGHT'VE EYES. BLINDED HIM. LOOK, FIRESTAR'S  
COMING OuT!



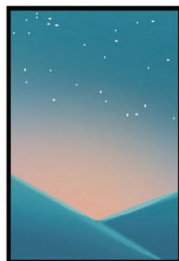
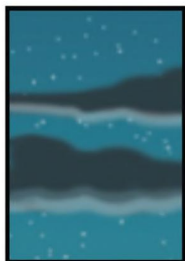
POOR LONGTAIL! FIRESTAR, HOW I'd HE? CINDERPELT'S  
WITH HIM NOW. CLOUDTAIL, SHE'S ASKED IF SHE CAN HAVE  
RAINPAW FOR THE REST OF THE DAY TO HELP HER. See if  
TRAINING FOR RAINPAW, ANYWAY. why, : 4 KX ; i = a \ ae OING  
TO HAPPEN i TO LONGTAIL? y | yg CINDERPELT LET'S HOPE THE  
i W YET. DAMAGE ISN'T AS BAD WILL HE REALLY y Perens) Sa ee)  
AS IT LOOKS. BE BLIND? I GUESS I WAS LUCKY. AT LEAST I'VE  
STILL GOT ONE &.



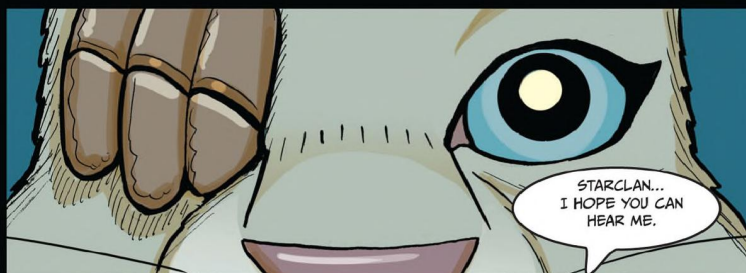


WHAT ABOUT THE HUNTING PATROL? YOU'D BETTER  
CARRY ON... TLL COME WITH YOU. WHATEVER HAPPENS, THE  
CLAN STILL NEEDS TO BE FED. S| MERCIFUL STARCLAN. I HOPE  
LONGTAIL RECOVERS QUICKLY. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO  
LOSE ONE EYE... BUT BOTH? NO MATTER WHAT LONGTAIL HAS  
OR HASN'T DONE... I WOULDN'T WISH THAT ON ANY CAT.





STARCLAN... I HOPE YOU CAN HEAR ME. CINDERPELT'S STILL LOOKING AFTER LONGTAIL... .-. AND HE STILL CAN'T SEE. SHE'S WORRIED THE RABBIT'S CLAWS WERE DIRTY... .-- AND THAT LONGTAIL'S EYES MIGHT BE INFECTED.





SHE TRIES TO BE POSITIVE, BUT I KNOW MY SISTER. I CAN TELL SHE'S LOSING HOPE OF LONGTAIL EVER SEEING AGAIN. I FEEL TERRIBLE FOR HIM, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I CAN'T HELP NOTICING THAT NO PREY HAS DISAPPEARED LATE AT NIGHT.





The text on this page is estimated to be only 63.69% accurate

NOT SINCE LONGTAIL'S BEEN IN THE MEDICINE DEN."  
Se ie ull .. BRIGHTHEART?



SOFTLY, PLEASE. DON'T WAKE CINDERPELT. SHE'S I  
JUST CAME WORN OUT. TO SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING. HOW'S  
— UM. HOW'S THE PAIN? NOT AS BAD. THE HERBS HELP.  
TONIGHT'S THE FULL MOON.



MOST OF THE CLAN WENT TO THE GATHERING. LEFT ME HERE WITH A FEW OTHERS. MAYBE IT'S THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE. MAYBE IT'S THE WAY HE'S TREMBLING, JUST A TINY LITTLE BIT. BUT I RECOGNIZE THIS. IT'S WHERE I WAS, AFTER THE DOG TORE MY FACE. IT'S TOO SOON TO GIVE UP HOPE. YOU'RE A WARRIOR. WARRIORS ARE STRONG. YEAH, WELL. I'M LEFT BEHIND, TOO. SHE WON'T COME OUT AND SAY IT, BUT CINDERPELT'S AFRAID I'M... I'M BLIND. FOR GOOD. HOW'S A BLIND CAT SUPPOSED TO FIND HIS WAY TO A GATHERING? I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME BEING SUSPICIOUS OF HIM...BUT NOW I LOOK AT LONGTAIL, AND IT'S HARD TO SEE ANYTHING BUT...MYSELF. IT EVEN IF — EVEN IF YOU DON'T SEE AGAIN. YOU'LL STILL LEARN TO FIND YOUR WAY AROUND.



RIGHT THEN,  
IT HITS ME.

MAYBE IT'S THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE. MAYBE IT'S THE WAY HE'S TREMBLING, JUST A TINY LITTLE BIT.

BUT I **RECOGNIZE** THIS. IT'S WHERE I WAS, AFTER THE DOG TORE MY FACE.

I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME BEING SUSPICIOUS OF HIM...BUT NOW I LOOK AT LONGTAIL, AND IT'S HARD TO SEE ANYTHING BUT...MYSELF.

IT'S TOO SOON TO GIVE UP HOPE. YOU'RE A WARRIOR. WARRIORS ARE STRONG.

BUT EVEN IF —

EVEN IF YOU DON'T SEE AGAIN. YOU'LL STILL LEARN TO FIND YOUR WAY AROUND.

AND YOU KNOW YOUR CLANMATES WILL HELP YOU. WHAT GOOD WILL I BE TO THUNDERCLAN IF I CAN'T SEE? I WAS LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO LEARN TO BE A WARRIOR I WON'T BE ABLE TO HUNT OR FIGHT OR PATROL. NOT LIKE YOU LEARNED TO AFTER THE DOG ATTACK. AT FIRST I THOUGHT I NEVER WOULD. I WON'T BE ABLE TO MENTOR SOOTPAW ANYMORE, EITHER. HE'LL END UP GETTING ASSIGNED TO SOME OTHER CAT.





AND YOU KNOW  
YOUR CLANMATES WILL  
HELP YOU.



BE REALISTIC.

WHAT GOOD WILL I  
BE TO THUNDERCLAN IF  
I CAN'T SEE?



I WON'T BE  
ABLE TO HUNT OR  
FIGHT OR PATROL.

NOT LIKE YOU  
LEARNED TO AFTER THE  
DOG ATTACK.


I WON'T BE ABLE  
TO MENTOR SOOTPAW ANYMORE,  
EITHER. HE'LL END UP GETTING  
ASSIGNED TO SOME OTHER CAT.



I WAS LUCKY  
TO BE ABLE TO LEARN  
TO BE A WARRIOR  
AGAIN.

AT FIRST  
I THOUGHT I NEVER  
WOULD.

IT'S TRUE — YOU'RE FACING SOME HARD WORK. I HAD A LOT OF PAINFUL TIME WHILE I WAS HEALING... AND THEN I HAD TO LEARN TO COMPENSATE FOR THE MISSING EYE WHILE HUNTING AND FIGHTING. AND SOMETIMES I STILL HAVE TO DEPEND ON OTHER CATS IN A HUNT OR A FIGHT. MAYBE YOU'LL REGAIN ENOUGH SIGHT TO GET BACK TO THE WAY YOU WERE. BUT EVEN IF YOU DON'T, I KNOW YOU'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLAN. : MAYBE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND HERBS BY SCENT, AND HELP CINDERPELT.



IT'S TRUE — YOU'RE FACING  
SOME HARD WORK. I HAD A LOT  
OF PAINFUL TIME WHILE I WAS  
HEALING...

AND THEN I HAD TO  
LEARN TO COMPENSATE FOR  
THE MISSING EYE WHILE HUNTING  
AND FIGHTING.

AND SOMETIMES  
I STILL HAVE TO DEPEND  
ON OTHER CATS IN A HUNT OR  
A FIGHT.

MAYBE YOU'LL  
REGAIN ENOUGH SIGHT  
TO GET BACK TO THE WAY  
YOU WERE.


BUT EVEN IF YOU  
DON'T, I KNOW YOU'LL FIGURE  
OUT HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO  
THE CLAN.

MAYBE YOU'LL BE

OR TAKE CARE OF KITS. OR SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW WITH APPRENTICES. ALL I'VE EVER WANTED WAS JUST TO BE THE BEST WARRIOR I COULD. AND YOU CAN STILL DO THAT! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS. BRIGHTHEART... I KNOW YOU THOUGHT I WAS STEALING PREY AND GIVING IT TO CATS IN OTHER CLANS. BUT I REALLY WAeNT- I WOULDN'T DO THAT. EVER.




OR TAKE CARE OF  
KITS. OR SHARE WHAT YOU  
KNOW WITH APPRENTICES.



ALL I'VE EVER  
WANTED WAS JUST TO  
BE THE BEST WARRIOR  
I COULD.

AND YOU CAN  
STILL DO THAT! NO MATTER  
WHAT HAPPENS.



BRIGHTHEART...  
I KNOW YOU THOUGHT  
I WAS STEALING PREY AND  
GIVING IT TO CATS IN  
OTHER CLANS.

BUT I REALLY  
WASN'T.

I WOULDN'T  
DO THAT. EVER.



I BELIEVE  
YOU.

THANKS.



30 IT'S NOT LONGTAIL MAKING OFF WITH OUR FRESH-KILL. BUT THAT MEANS THE PREY THIEF IS STILL OUT THERE. SOMEWHERE. AND I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHO IT IS. WHAT CAT COULD'VE TAKEN THE ENTIRE PILEP WHO — OR WHAT — COULD'VE LEFT THESE GOUGES?

SO IT'S NOT LONGTAIL  
MAKING OFF WITH OUR  
FRESH-KILL.

BUT THAT MEANS  
THE *PREY THIEF* IS STILL OUT  
THERE. SOMEWHERE.

AND I'VE  
GOT TO FIGURE  
OUT WHO IT IS.

GONE —  
ALL OF IT!

WHAT CAT  
COULD'VE TAKEN  
THE ENTIRE PILE?

WHO — OR WHAT —  
COULD'VE LEFT THESE  
GOUGES?

WAS THERE SOME  
KIND OF ATTACK?

HEY, DUSTPELT — HAVE YOU SEEN ANY CAT COME THROUGH HERE? OR...UH... ANYTHING AT ALL? NOT SINCE é MOST OF THE CLAN \$ LEFT FOR THE / THEY'RE BACK GATHERING. NOW — I CAN HEAR THEM COMING.



IT ONLY TAKES A FEW HEARTBEATS FOR THE CAMP TO GO FROM MOSTLY EMPTY TO CROWDED AGAIN. WE NEED TO TALK. YOU'RE LOOKING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER TONIGHT, BY IN THE WAY.



I MEAN — THANK YOU, T NICE TO HEAR — NO TIME j  
BUT FOR SWEET TALK A IM AFRAID. | Ady ieee PROBLEM. YOU  
SEE THOSE WELL, THAT'S THE GOUGES, RIGHT? QUESTION,  
ISN'T ITP A I'M NOT IMAGINING VERY ANGRY CAT? OR THEM? a  
WAS IT A CAT AT ALL? OF COURSE I SEE THEM. BUT WHAT  
COULD'/VE DONE THIS? IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN LONGTAIL,  
AND IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BRAMBLECLAW EITHER... MAYBE  
WE CAN --- BECAUSE GET A SCENT OFF HE WAS AT THE THE  
MARKS? GATHERING WITH YoU.





ARE YOU GETTING ANYTHING FROM ANY OTHER  
CLAN? «+ e WHAT IF IT WASN'T A CAT AT ALL? WOULD A  
BADGER LEAVE MARKS LIKE THIS? I DON'T KNOW. BUT WE'D  
DEFINITELY SMELL A BADGER IN OUR CAMP. GREAT. THAT  
MEANS IT HAS TO BE A THUNDERCLAN CAT. OR COULD A CAT  
MAYBE. \ HAVE Bet apa eae EL FROM THE GATHERING AND be A  
Oe ee nea SOMEHOW GOTTEN PAST TO GUARD THE CAMP?  
DUSTPELT?



I'LL ADMIT, I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO EVERY CAT TONIGHT. I GUESS SOME CAT COULD/VE LEFT WITHOUT ME NOTICING. FIRESTAR DIDN'T COME BACK WITH THE CLAN. HE WENT TO THE MOONSTONE TO ASK STARCLAN FOR ADVICE. IF YOU SAY SO. I SAY WE WAIT TILL FIRESTAR GETS BACK. I DON'T WANT TO GO FLINGING ACCUSATIONS AROUND WITHOUT ANY PROOF. MAYBE FIRESTAR'S BEEN LOOKING INTO IT, TOO — WE SHOULD ASK HIM IF HE'S FOUND ANYTHING. ADVICE ABOUT WHAT? WOULD HE BE ASKING STARCLAN ABOUT THE MISSING FRESH-KILL? IT'S NOT THAT SERIOUS, IS IT? THE WHOLE TRIP IS POINTLESS, IF YOU ASK ME. IT'S NOT LIKE A ROCK IS ACTUALLY GOING TO TELL HIM ANYTHING. YEAH — THAT MAKES SENSE.





HOW MANY CATS DID WE LEAVE BEHIND, ANYWAY?  
THEY ATE EVERYTHING? THEY OUGHT YOU THREE CAN GO TO  
GO ion. ON A HUNTING PATROL I DON'T KNOW. FIRST THING IN  
THE MORNING, NO POINT IN GREEDYCLAN, IF YOU'RE SO  
WORRIED ABOUT COMPLAINING MAYBE. WHAT Picea ali ABOUT  
IT. TING. I'D SAY THERE'S SOME POINT IN COMPLAINING ABOUT  
IT! WE CAN REFILL WE NEED TO THE PILE NOW, BUT WHAT IF  
SHARE OUR PREY CATS ARE STILL GORGING IF WE'RE GOING TO  
THEMSELVES WHEN LEAF- SURVIVE! BARE COMES?



FIRESTAR ISN'T BACK BY THE NEXT NIGHT. I THOUGHT THE NEXT NIGHT WAS GOING TO BE THE SAME STORY. UNTIL — FIRESTAR'S BACK! YOU REALIZE HE'S JUST BARELY HAD TIME TO GET TO THE MOONPOOL BY NOW...? AND SITTING UP LOOKING FOR HIM WON'T BRING HIM BACK ANY FASTER. I JUST FEEL SO IMPATIENT. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED. DO YOU NEED FOOD? WATER?



FIRESTAR ISN'T BACK  
BY THE NEXT NIGHT.




YOU REALIZE HE'S  
JUST BARELY HAD TIME  
TO *GET* TO THE MOONPOOL  
BY NOW...?

I KNOW,  
I KNOW.

AND SITTING UP  
LOOKING FOR HIM  
WON'T BRING HIM BACK  
ANY FASTER.

I JUST FEEL  
SO IMPATIENT.



I THOUGHT THE NEXT NIGHT  
WAS GOING TO BE THE SAME  
STORY. UNTIL —



THERE HE  
IS!

FIRESTAR'S  
BACK!



FIRESTAR!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?  
YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED.  
DO YOU NEED FOOD?  
WATER?

I AM EXHAUSTED, BUT THANK YOU, NO. RIGHT NOW I JUST NEED TO TALK TO LONGTAIL. I'M SORRY, GRAYSTRIPE, BUT I HAVE TO GET SOME SLEEP. M WE'LL DISCUSS Bon ene THINGS ONCE I'VE RESTED A BIT.





COME ON, WE CAN CATCH HIM! NO. NO NO NO.  
FIRESTAR SAID HE WAS EXHAUSTED, AND THAT HE NEEDS  
SLEEP. WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S GOING TO GET. IF  
THERE'S A PROBLEM, YOU CAN TALK TO GRAYSTRIPE. THAT'S  
WHAT A DEPUTY'S FOR. YOU KNOW ALL HE'LL DO IS GO ASK  
FIRESTAR HIMSELF. WHY DID HE WANT TO TALK TO LONGTAIL,  
THOUGH? IF IT'S ABOUT THE MISSING WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO  
TRY TO ARGUE WITH SANDSTORM. ... MAYBE FIRESTAR WE'LL  
JUST HAVE TO SEE DID FIND SOMETHING IF WE CAN CATCH  
FIRESTAR OUT? TOMORROW.



COME ON,  
WE CAN CATCH  
HIM!

STOP RIGHT  
THERE.

BUT —

NO. NO NO NO.  
FIRESTAR SAID HE  
WAS EXHAUSTED, AND THAT  
HE NEEDS SLEEP. WHICH IS  
EXACTLY WHAT HE'S  
GOING TO GET.

IF THERE'S A  
PROBLEM, YOU CAN  
TALK TO GRAYSTRIPE.  
THAT'S WHAT A DEPUTY'S  
FOR.

YOU KNOW ALL  
HE'LL DO IS GO ASK  
FIRESTAR HIMSELF.

WE'RE NOT ABOUT  
TO TRY TO ARGUE WITH  
SANDSTORM.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE  
IF WE CAN CATCH FIRESTAR  
TOMORROW.

WHY DID HE WANT TO TALK  
TO LONGTAIL, THOUGH?  
IF IT'S ABOUT THE MISSING  
PREY...

...MAYBE FIRESTAR  
*DID* FIND SOMETHING  
OUT?

WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR HIM TO WAKE UP,  
THOUGH... ... I MIGHT AS WELL KEEP TRYING TO FIGURE THIS  
OUT ON MY OWN. CINDERPELT WOULD PROBABLY SAY, 'IF YOU  
CAN'T TALK TO FIRESTAR THE NEXT TIME I TALK TO ABOUT IT,  
JUST TELL GRAYSTRIPE!' FIRESTAR, I WANT TO HAVE JUST  
LIKE SANDSTORM. SOME KIND OF PROOF. BUT I DON'T WANT  
TO BE THE ' CAT WHO BOTHERS THE WHOLE OR GUE nee Lae  
CLAN ABOUT A PROBLEM WITHOUT LESS PREY HERE THAN  
THERE OFFERING ANY KIND OF SOLUTION. SAOULD Be. SURELY  
SOME OF THESE MARKS ARE NEW?

WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR  
HIM TO WAKE UP, THOUGH...

...I MIGHT AS WELL KEEP  
TRYING TO FIGURE THIS OUT  
ON MY OWN.

CINDERPELT WOULD PROBABLY SAY,  
"IF YOU CAN'T TALK TO FIRESTAR  
ABOUT IT, JUST TELL GRAYSTRIPE!"  
JUST LIKE SANDSTORM.

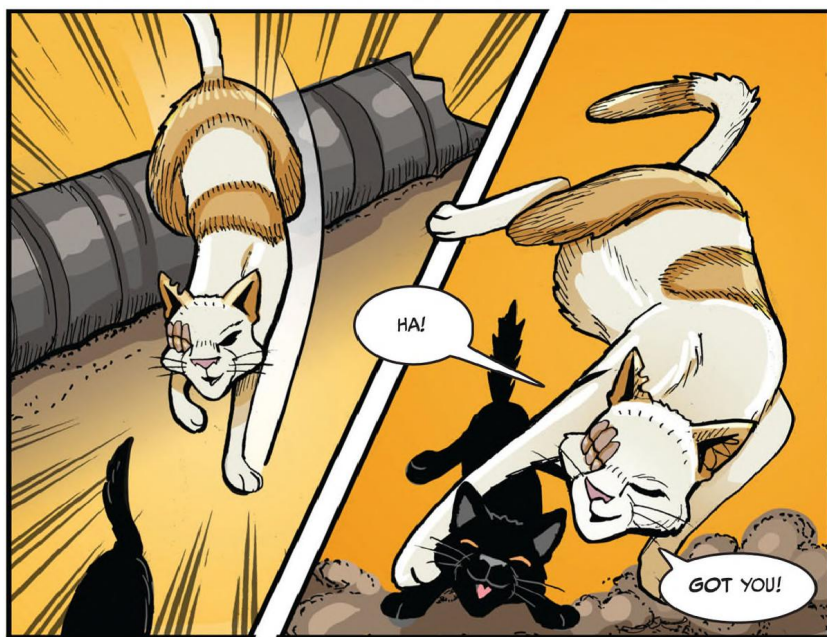
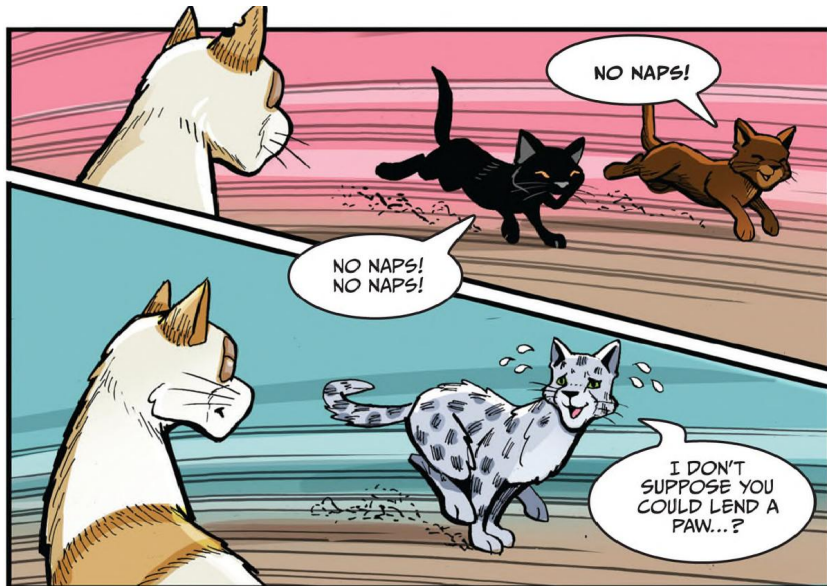
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE THE  
CAT WHO BOTHERS THE WHOLE  
CLAN ABOUT A PROBLEM WITHOUT  
OFFERING ANY KIND OF *SOLUTION*.

THE NEXT TIME I TALK TO  
FIRESTAR, I WANT TO HAVE  
SOME KIND OF PROOF.

IT'S NOT EMPTY THIS  
MORNING... BUT THERE'S A LOT  
LESS PREY HERE THAN THERE  
SHOULD BE.

SURELY SOME  
OF THESE MARKS  
ARE NEW?

NO NAPS! : NO NAPS!





WE'LL SEE WHO'S NOT TAKING A... COME ON, YOU TWO. BACK TO THE NURSERY. HE FIRESTAR'S CALLED AN EXTRA HUNTING PATROL, AND I'M ON IT. 0 I'M SURE THESE we WOULD Cae GOUGES WEREN'T HERE > BEFORE, AND THIS MIGHT BRE SEe ON Ss BE AS CLOSE TO PROOF AS WE'RE GOING TO GET. 30 COULD YOU BRING FIRESTAR OVER WHEN YOU GET BACK? I WANT TO SHOW THEM TO HIM BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS. NOT A PROBLEM.



WAS T RIGHT NOT TO TALK TO GRAYSTRIPE? THE DAY SEEMS TO STRETCH OUT. THE SUN BARELY MOVES ACROSS THE SKY. NOT THAT I EVEN COULD RIGHT NOW — HE'S OUT ON A PATROL, TOO. WHERE'S FIRESTAR?



WASNT FIRESTAR WITH YOU? SOME CATS AT THE GATHERING SAID THERE WAS A BADGER IN THE FOREST! IT DIDN'T GET FIRESTAR, DID IT? HAT HAPPENED TO HIM? b A KITTYPET SHOWED UP, LOOKING FOR FIRESTAR. THEN THE TWO OF THEM WENT OFF TOGETHER. HE SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING HE NEEDED TO Do.





WELL THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. HE WENT OFF WITH A KITTYPET? FIRESTAR WILL EXPLAIN WHEN HE GETS BACK. WHY DOES HE — DON'T GET YOUR Wee ote , WHISKERS IN A TWIST ABOUT IT. OTHER NIGHT NO FIRESTAR. ANOTHER NIGHT WHEN THIS MYSTERIOUS THIEF MIGHT STEAL OUR FOOD, AND I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY ANSWERS.



CAN I TELL YOU SOMETHING? YOU KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK. ABOUT THAT — DID BRAMBLECLAW OR ASHFUR TELL YOU WHAT THE KITTYPET SAID TO FIRESTAR? NO. BUT I, UH... IT GAVE ME A THOUGHT. I DON'T THINK YOU/LL LIKE IT. I'M... WELL... IM WORRIED. FIRESTAR'S BEEN ACTING SO ODDLY. WHAT IF — FIRESTAR USED AND THIS IS A BIG TO BE A KITTYPET HIMSELF. WHAT IF, I KNOW — AND, ALSO, LEADING A CLAN BUT LISTEN. IS DIFFICULT. WHAT IF HE'S THINKING ABOUT GOING BACK? IT'S A SOFT LIFE. IT HAS TO BE TEMPTING.



I MEAN, I WAS CLOUDTAIL, A KITTYPET WHEN YOU KNOW I I WA@ A KIT. LOVE YOU. AND IT TOOK ME QUITE A WHILE TO STOP SNEAKING BACK FOR FOOD FROM THE TWOLEGS. FIRESTAR LIVED LIKE THAT FOR A LOT A Ralls LONGER THAN I DID oo) DES ey . BUNCH OF SOUNDS . YOUR MOUTH HAS EVER WHAT IF, AFTER ALL THE iS MADE BATTLES, ALL THE SUFFERING, HE FEELS LIKE HES DONE ENOUGH FOR THUNDERCLAN? WHAT IF HE'S JUST... FINISHED? FIRESTAR HAS PROVEN HIMSELF AS LEADER OF THUNDERCLAN! HE'S A TRUE WARRIOR! BEING A WARRIOR HAS MADE HIM STRONG — NOT EAGER TO RUN AWAY. HE'S — IT'S — THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN THINKING LIKE THAT.





OKAY, BUT — ' WHAT IF? I'M JUST GRAYSTRIPE  
SCARED. ISN'T READY TO BE THE CLAN LEADER. IT'S NOT THAT  
LONG SINCE HE WAS Bi een WE NEED A STRONG LEADER LIKE  
FIRESTAR, ONE THE OTHER CLANS RESPECT, TO KEEP  
THUNDERCLAN SAFE. WHAT IF OUR KITS ARE BORN IN A CLAN  
THAT ISN'/T STRONG? WE'VE SEEN WHAT CAN HAPPEN. MY  
GREAT BIG KOUND WITH YOUR 4 BELLY AND I WILL KEEP  
GREAT BIG ROUND my | Sa WS YOU SAFE. TLL KEEP a /' YOU  
SAFE. q SS EXACTLY. BELLY? I FEEL SAFER ALREADY.



IT'S CHILLY THE NEXT MORNING. AND NOT JUST BECAUSE FIRESTAR STILL ISN'T BACK YET. I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY MOTHER WAS TALKING ABOUT, WITH ALL HER "BEST SLEEP EVER" WHILE SHE WAS PREGNANT. I CAN BARELY BREATHE WHEN I LIE DOWN, AND I SPEND HALF MY NIGHT MAKING TRIPS TO THE DIRTPLACE.



IT'S CHILLY THE  
NEXT MORNING.



AND NOT JUST  
BECAUSE FIRESTAR  
*STILL* ISN'T BACK YET.



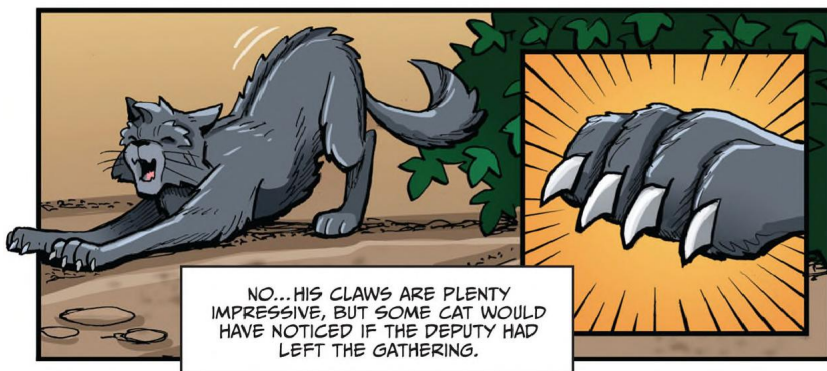
I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* MY  
MOTHER WAS TALKING ABOUT,  
WITH ALL HER "BEST SLEEP  
EVER" WHILE SHE WAS  
PREGNANT.



I CAN BARELY BREATHE WHEN  
I LIE DOWN, AND I SPEND HALF  
MY NIGHT *MAKING TRIPS* TO  
THE DIRTPLACE.

SOMETHING BIG, LIKE A BADGER HELLO, MY Y OR...OR  
A DOG... WOULD LEAVE MYSTERIOUS CLAW MARK ya] SCENT  
TRACES ALL OVER THE PLACE. COMPANIONS. ies IT CAN'T BE  
ANYTHING LIKE THAT. 30 I'M BACK TO SUSPECTING MY  
CLANMATES. AND I CAN'T — 1 WON'T — ACCUSE ANY OF THEM  
WITHOUT REAL, SERIOUS PROOF. WHAT COULD BE r A) | a ee >  
ee ieee. aie BUT...POES A CAT IN CAMP DOESN'T LEAVE ANY fl]  
= HAVE CLAWS THAT LARGE? UNFAMILIAR SCENTS? =" NOT  
FERNCLOUD, AND NOT ] CINDERPELT EITHER. NO...HIS CLAWS  
ARE PLENTY IMPRESSIVE, BUT SOME CAT WOULD HAVE  
NOTICED IF THE DEPUTY HAD LEFT THE GATHERING.





The text on this page is estimated to be only 73.07% accurate

c . A WHO ELSE — GJ 3 COULD IT BE? wae 67 = .  
WHO MIGHT HAVE GIANT CLAWS THAT I'VE NEVER NOTICED?  
CAN'T TELL WHAT ANY CATS CLAWS LOOK LIKE WHEN THEY'RE  
ASLEEP. THIS WAS A MOUSEBRAINED IDEA.



IF YOU'LL PARDON ME — OH! I'M SORRY. ASHFUR!  
THORNCLAW! WILLOWPELT! YOU THREE ARE ON DAWN  
PATROL! COME ON, YOU'VE SLEPT ENOUGH! GET YOUR PAWS  
UNDER YOU AND GET MOVING!



AND... THORNCLAW — UM. WHILE YOU'RE TAKE  
SOOTPAW OUT THERE. YOU CAN HELP TRAIN HIM TILL = \  
KEEP AN EYE LONGTAIL'S BACK ON) OUT FOR FRESIAE. HIS  
PAWS. | OKAY? I'M SURE HE'S ON HIS WAY BACK TO CAMP, BUT  
— JUST BE AWARE. GOT IT? STILL CAN'T TELL WHO'S GOT  
LONG CLAWS AND WHO DOESN'T, EVEN FROM THIS CLOSE  
UP...BUT MAYBE... HEY, EXCUSE ME — BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT,  
WOULD YOU THREE PLEASE DO ME A FAVOR? UH... SURE?  
WHAT DO YOU NEED?



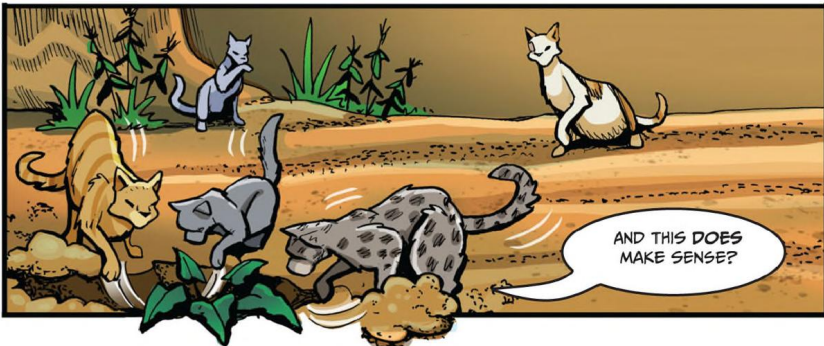




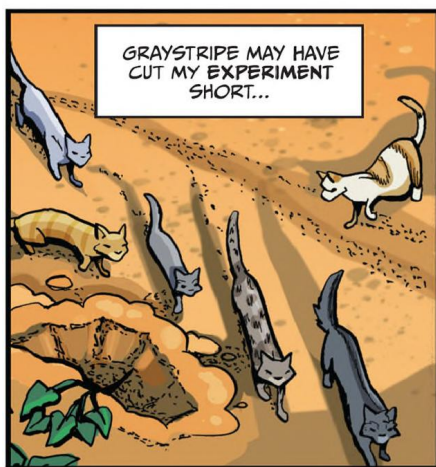
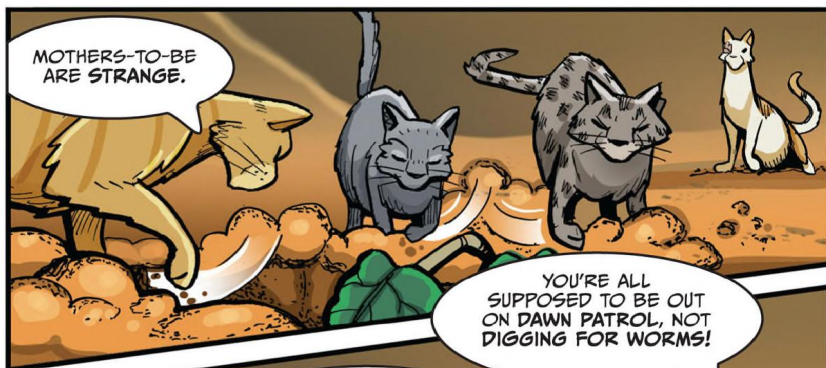
WELL, I WAS HOPING I COULD GET YOU TO SCRATCH AT THE DIRT IN THIS ONE SPOT AT THE EDGE OF THE CAMP FOR ME. MINE AREN'T EITHER, BRIGHTHEART. I, UH, I'D LOVE TO GET AT THE ROOTS OF THIS BURDOCK PLANT? BEING PREGNANT IS MAKING ME WANT TO CHEW ON BURDOCK ROOTS. BECAUSE I'M PREGNANT. ENOUGH. OH, W-WELL, THEN, I COULDN'T ASK YOU TO DO ANY DIGGING, THEN. BECAUSE THAT WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE. AND THIS DOES MAKE SENSE? AND, WELL, MY, UH...MY CLAWS AREN'T LONG



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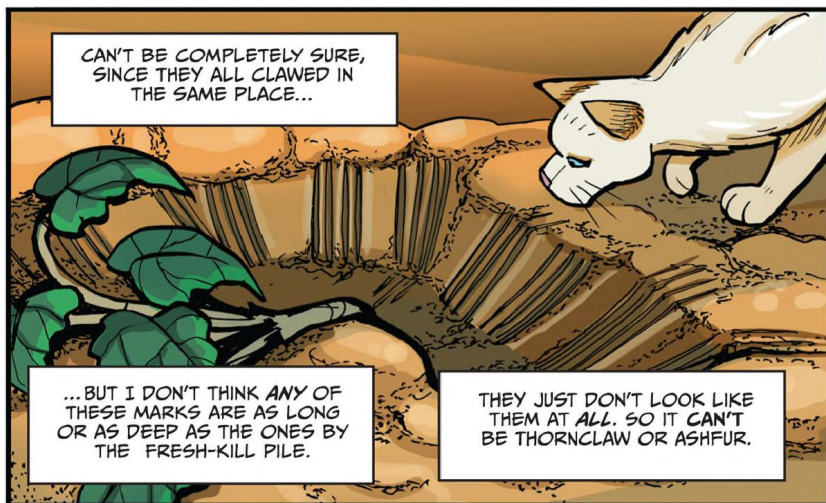


MOTHERS-TO-BE ARE STRANGE. YOU'RE ALL SUPPOSED  
TO BE OUT ON DAWN PATROL, NOT DIGGING FOR WORMS! |  
BUT GRAYSTRIPE, WE'RE DIGGING FOR — ZA HUSH, me  
SOOTPAW. GRAYSTRIPE MAY HAVE CUT MY EXPERIMENT  
SHORT...



CAN'T BE COMPLETELY SURE, SINCE THEY ALL CLAWED  
IN THE SAME PLACE... ..BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF ' THESE  
MARKS ARE AS LONG ee re eae OR AS DEEP AS THE ONES BY  
THE FRESH-KILL PILE. BE THORNCLAW OR ASHFUR. ARE HER  
CLAWS TRULY SHORT, OR DID SHE JUST SAY THAT BECAUSE  
SHE KNEW WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO?





CAN'T BE COMPLETELY SURE,  
SINCE THEY ALL CLAWED IN  
THE SAME PLACE...

...BUT I DON'T THINK *ANY* OF  
THESE MARKS ARE AS LONG  
OR AS DEEP AS THE ONES BY  
THE FRESH-KILL PILE.

THEY JUST DON'T LOOK LIKE  
THEM AT *ALL*. SO IT *CAN'T*  
BE THORNCLAW OR ASHFUR.



MAYBE  
WILLOWPELT?

ARE HER CLAWS  
TRULY SHORT, OR DID  
SHE JUST SAY THAT  
BECAUSE SHE KNEW  
WHAT I WAS TRYING  
TO DO?

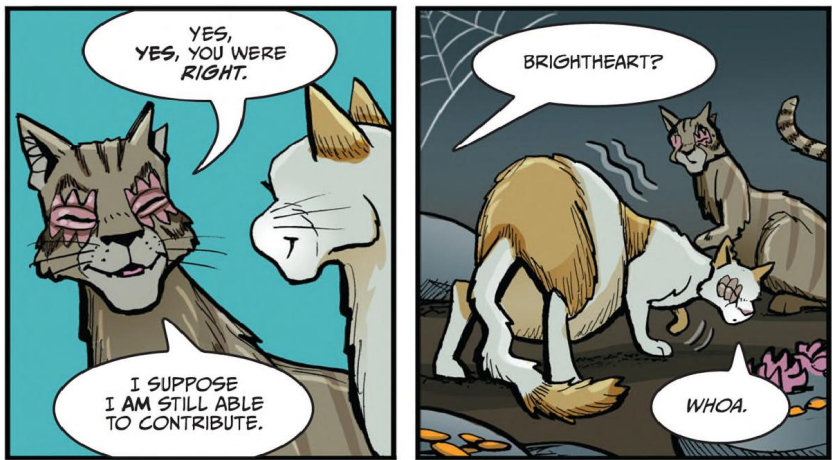


WHAT'S THIS?

THAT DEPENDS. CAN YOU USE BURDOCK ROOT?  
YOU'RE BRINGING ME GIFTS? WELL, SURE — I CAN PUT IT ON  
WOUNDS TO PREVENT INFECTION. LET ME PUT IT WITH THE  
REST. OH, AND THANKS. I DIDN'/T MEAN TO SEEM  
UNGRATEFUL. OME CAT BEING USEFUL IN HERE?



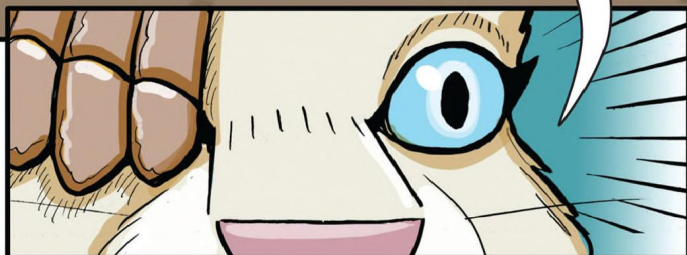
I SUPPOSE I AM STILL ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I, UH — I'M NOT SURE. I'VE HAD THIS WEIRD FEELING A FEW TIMES, AND... Wow. I'M HAVING IT RIGHT NOW. BRIGHTHEART. SISTER. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG. YOU'RE FEELING YOUR KITS Move!



STARCLAN IN THE SKY! RELIEVED, ARE WEP HAT  
HAPPENED? RELIEVED? MORE LIKE - a THRILLED! WAIT TILL I  
TELL CLOUDTAIL! STARCLAN HELP US!

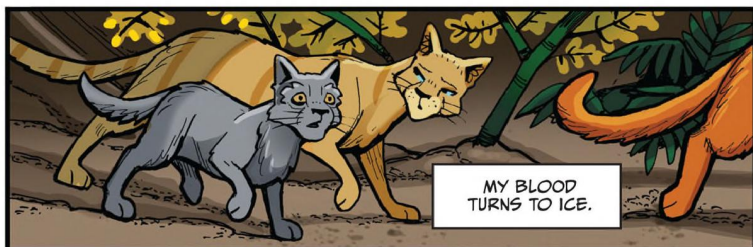








I SEE THE SAME SHOCK AND PAIN AND CONFUSION INSIDE ME ON EVERY THUNDERCLAN CAT'S FACE. HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN? WHAT COULD HAVE TAKEN THOSE PRECIOUS KITS' MOTHER AWAY LIKE THIS? I CAN BARELY MOVE. MY LEGS DON'T WANT TO CARRY ME.



THE CRIES OF GRIEF AND HORROR ECHO ALL AROUND ME, BUT THE ONLY THING I CAN HEAR IS THE SOUND OF MY OWN RUSHING BLOOD. ZA ® ¢ CAN FIRESTAR MAKE CATS OF THIS MAKE SENSE? † THUNDERCLAN... WILLOWPELT IS DEAD. SHE DIED BRAVELY, AND HER SPIRIT WILL BE HONORED IN STARCLAN. A VICIOUS BADGER TOOK HER LIFE.



: WE WILL MAKE { SURE THE BADGER CLOUDTAIL AND HARMS NO OTHER CAT HIS PATROL ARE OF THUNDERCLAN. TRACKING IT. BUT TONIGHT, WE SIT VIGIL FOR WILLOWPELT. IT FEELS AS IF WILLOWPELT'S DEATH HAS SPLIT ME INTO PIECES. PART OF ME WANTS TO BE OUT THERE. NOT JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT BADGER IS NO LONGER A THREAT... ... BUT TO PROTECT CLOUDTAIL. THE THOUGHT OF ANYTHING HAPPENING TO HIM IS TOO MUCH TO BEAR.



EXCEPT I WANT TO BE HERE, TOO. WILLOWPELT'S KITS ARE STILL SO YOUNG — ONLY APPRENTICES. THEY'LL BE GRIEVING. AND FERNCLOUD SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DO IT BY HERSELF. NOT WHEN SHE ALREADY HAS TWO OF HER OWN. IT TAKES ME A WHILE TO REALIZE WHAT I REALLY WANT. WHICH IS...TO FIX ALL OF THIS. THE FRESH-KILL THIEF. THE BADGER. THE KITS. LONGTAIL'S EYES. BUT I CAN'T, CAN I? NOT WITHOUT HELP. I CAN ALMOST HEAR CLOUDTAIL'S VOICE — "BEING PART OF A CLAN MEANS RELYING ON EACH OTHER."





EXCEPT I WANT TO BE HERE, TOO. WILLOWPELT'S KITS ARE STILL SO YOUNG — ONLY APPRENTICES. THEY'LL BE GRIEVING.

AND FERNCLOUD SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DO IT BY HERSELF. NOT WHEN SHE ALREADY HAS TWO OF HER OWN.

IT TAKES ME A WHILE TO REALIZE WHAT I REALLY WANT. WHICH IS...TO FIX ALL OF THIS.

THE FRESH-KILL THIEF.  
THE BADGER. THE KITS.  
LONGTAIL'S EYES.



BUT I CAN'T, CAN I?  
NOT WITHOUT **HELP**.

I CAN ALMOST **HEAR**  
CLOUDTAIL'S VOICE —



"BEING PART OF A  
CLAN MEANS RELYING ON  
EACH OTHER."



x DONT KNOW LITTLE ONES. HOW TO DO THAT. NOT  
idcihiaiaas WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME, BACK TO THE  
NURSERY? WE'LL GET YOU SOMETHING NICE TO EAT. BUT I  
THINK I KNOW HOW TO MAKE A GOOD START. ERE ALL ALONE  
Now. OH, SWEET YOU'VE GOT LITTLE KIT. YOU ARE NOT  
FIRESTAR, AND GRAYSTRIPE, ALONE. YOU'VE GOT ME, AND  
SANDSTORM. YOU'VE GOT AND FERNCLOUD, ALL OF US. EVERY  
CAT IN AND CINDERPELT... THUNDERCLAN. BUT BRIGHTHEAR  
WHAT IF THE BADGER COMES HERE? WHAT IF IT TRIES TO KILL  
US, TOO?



I DON'T KNOW  
HOW TO DO THAT. NOT  
PROPERLY.

BUT I THINK I  
KNOW HOW TO MAKE  
A GOOD START.



HEY THERE,  
LITTLE ONES.

WHY DON'T YOU  
COME WITH ME, BACK  
TO THE NURSERY? WE'LL  
GET YOU SOMETHING  
NICE TO EAT.



WE'RE  
ALL ALONE  
NOW.

OH, SWEET  
LITTLE KIT. YOU ARE NOT  
ALONE. YOU'VE GOT ME,  
AND FERNCLOUD,  
AND CINDERPELT...

YOU'VE GOT  
FIRESTAR, AND GRAYSTRIPE,  
AND SANDSTORM. YOU'VE GOT  
ALL OF US. EVERY CAT IN  
THUNDERCLAN.



BUT  
BRIGHTHEART...

WHAT IF THE BADGER  
COMES HERE? WHAT IF  
IT TRIES TO KILL *US*,  
TOO?

DON'T YOU WORRY, RAINPAW. WE'RE TO GOING TO PROTECT YOU. EVERY CAT IN THE CLAN WILL PROTECT YOU. NOTHING WILL GET TO YOU IN OUR CAMP AS LONG AS A THUNDERCLAN CAT IS ALIVE AND ABLE TO I SWEAR BY STARCLAN.



DON'T YOU  
WORRY, RAINPAW.  
WE'RE TO GOING TO  
PROTECT YOU.



PROMISE?

I'LL DO  
BETTER THAN  
THAT.

I SWEAR BY  
STARCLAN.



EVERY CAT IN  
THE CLAN WILL  
PROTECT YOU.

NOTHING WILL GET  
TO YOU IN OUR CAMP AS  
LONG AS A THUNDERCLAN  
CAT IS ALIVE AND ABLE TO  
FIGHT.



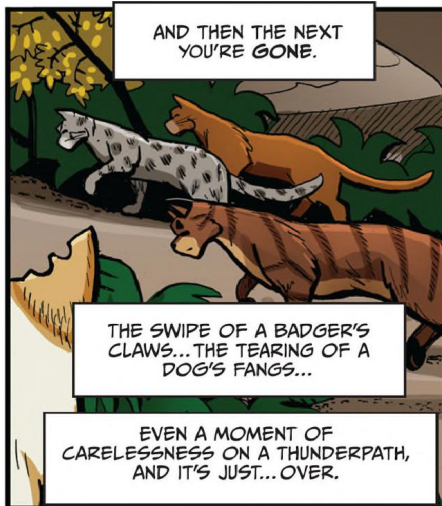
TOO YOUNG. MUCH . TOO YOUNG. IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF PEACEFUL TONIGHT. Je SAD. FULL OF HEARTACHE AND GRIEF. ; "Ta coe SHE WAS roe SUCH A GOOD a WARRIOR. BUT STRANGELY CALM. , Pees AND AN EXCELLENT MOTHER TO HER KITS... CLOUDTAIL! THANK STARCLAN! YOU'RE WE TRACKED THE BACK SAFE. BADGER OUT OF THE TERRITORY. WITH ANY LUCK IT WON'T COME BACK.



CLOUDTAIL...I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING. WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE DANGERS IN A WARRIOR'S LIFE... BADGERS, FOXES, WARRIORS FROM OTHER CLANS...PACKS OF DOGG... I'M — IM AFRAID TO BRING KITS INTO THE WORLD. FEAKE MAKES FOR A TERRIBLE WARRIOR. I SHOULD BE LIVING EVERY SINGLE HEARTBEAT OF THIS LIFE TO ITS ABSOLUTE FULLEST. BUT WHEN I SEE THE ELDERS CARRYING WILLOWPELT'S BODY OUT OF THE CAMP... ... LIFE JUST FEELS SO FLEETING. FRAGILE. ONE DAY YOU'RE ALIVE, SERVING YOUR CLAN, FOLLOWING THE WARRIOR COPE. 7 =

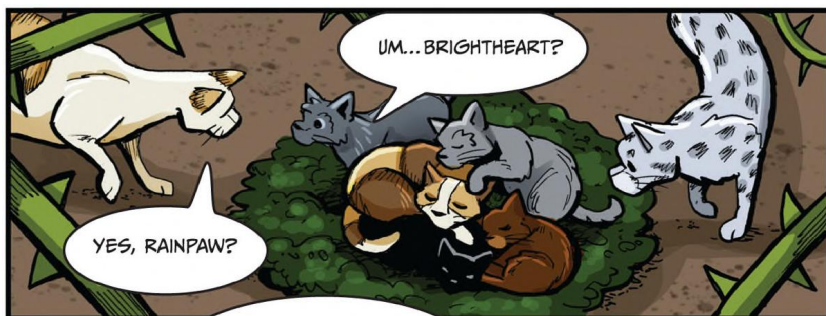


AND THEN THE NEXT YOU'RE GONE. i THE SWIPE OF A BADGER'S CLAWS... THE TEARING OF A DOG'S FANGS... EVEN A MOMENT OF CARELESSNESS ON A THUNDERPATH, AND IT'S JUST... OVER. I WAS THINKING — MAYBE WILLOWPELT'S KITS SHOULD MOVE BACK INTO THE NURSERY FOR A DAY OR TWO? IT MIGHT DO THEM GOOP TO TAKE A BREAK. 'WHAT CAT COULDN'T USE A LITTLE WARMTH AND PEACE?' I TRY TO SHAKE OFF THIS BLEAK FEELING. NOT EASY WHEN I'VE BEEN AWAKE ALL NIGHT. SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOU AND FERNCLOUD? I THINK IT MIGHT DO US ALL SOME GOOD.



UM... BRIGHTHEART? YES, RAINPAW? OUR FATHER — WHITESTORM — GOT KILLED IN BATTLE WHEN WE WERE LITTLE. AND NOW OUR MOTHER'S DEAD, TOO. HAVE YOU EVER I KNOW WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE PEED NOMPIEee OF OURSELVES. SINCE WE'LL BE WARRIORS IN JUST A FEW MOONS. BUT... 1 JUST...I DON'T : FEEL LIKE I CAN LOOK \ I, UH...I GORT AFTER MYSELF WITHOUT OF ATE A BEE THIS WILLOWPELT. ONE TIME.





IT STUNG ME, AND MY NOSE WAS SO BIG FOR A WHILE! SORRELPAW AND SOOTPAW MADE FUN OF ME. BUT WILLOWPELT TOOK US AND SHOWED US THE HIVE, AND TOLD US TO KEEP AWAY FROM IT. SHE SAID IF ALL THE BEES GOT MAD AT US, THEY COULD STING US ALL AT ONCE. OKAY, SO, YOU REMEMBER HOW LITTLE THAT ONE BEE LOOKED? LITTLE ENOUGH TO SEEM LIKE A SNACK. oS e & =" A CAT WITHOUT A CLAN IS A LITTLE BIT LIKE THAT ONE ONE BEE ON ITS OWN CAN'T DO MUCH, CAN IT? TRUE. BUT IT STILL ENDED UP IN YOUR BELLY, DIDN'T IT? BUT WHEN YOU'RE HERE — WITH ALL OF US — THEN WHAT ARE WE LIKE? OH — OHS WE'RE LIKE THE HIVE! AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR YOU? DON'T EAT BEES? .-. GOOD ENOUGH.



**The text on this page is estimated to be only 48.00% accurate  
ot.**





IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH BETTER I FEEL AFTER SOME SLEEP. I REALLY SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE LIFE AND DEATH AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A THUNDERCLAN CAT WHEN I'VE BEEN AWAKE ALL NIGHT. MOST OF US HAVE y BEEN ASLEEP ALL DAY. IT'S NOT A LOT OF GOOD TO SEE THAT SOME CATS PREY, BUT IT SEEMS HAVE MADE TIME TO PROVIDE UNDISTURBED. FOR THE CLAN.

IT'S AMAZING HOW  
MUCH BETTER I FEEL AFTER  
SOME SLEEP.

I REALLY SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT  
THINGS LIKE LIFE AND DEATH AND WHAT IT  
MEANS TO BE A THUNDERCLAN CAT WHEN  
I'VE BEEN AWAKE ALL NIGHT.



I'D SAY WHOEVER'S YEAH, pg aac EM ad THAT'S  
POSSIBLE, COMES AT NIGHT. ae --» WHAT IF A CAT FROM  
ANOTHER CLAN DISGUISED THEIR SCENT y AND THEN SNUCK  
INP WE SHOULD MENTION IT TO FIRESTAR. SPEAKING OF  
FIRESTAR... GATHER HERE BENEATH THE HIGHROCK FOR A  
CLAN MEETING!



a /' THAVE RECEIVED WHAT'S WITH THOSE THREE?  
 THEY ALL LOOK AS IF THEY'VE ili aa EATEN A ROTTEN MOUSE.  
 ~ IM GOING TO HAVE TO TRAVEL AWAY FROM THE FOREST TO  
 DO SOMETHING FOR THEM. IT'S IMPORTANT. AND SANDSTORM  
 IS COMING WITH ME. GRAYSTRIPE WILL ay Ba Hiscock ee Ne =  
 BE IN CHARGE OF i THUNDERCLAN WHILE IM GONE. \* 4 es 5 — :  
 —~—& < > WHAT DID THEY ASK YOU TO DOP YOU'RE  
 LEAVING? BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU HAVE TO GO  
 NOW?

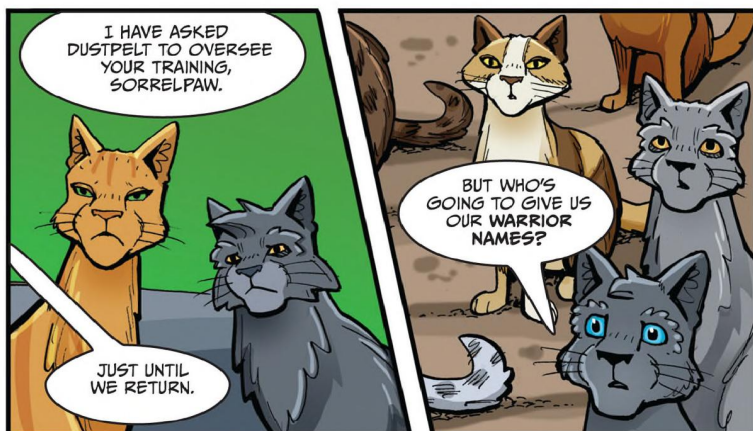




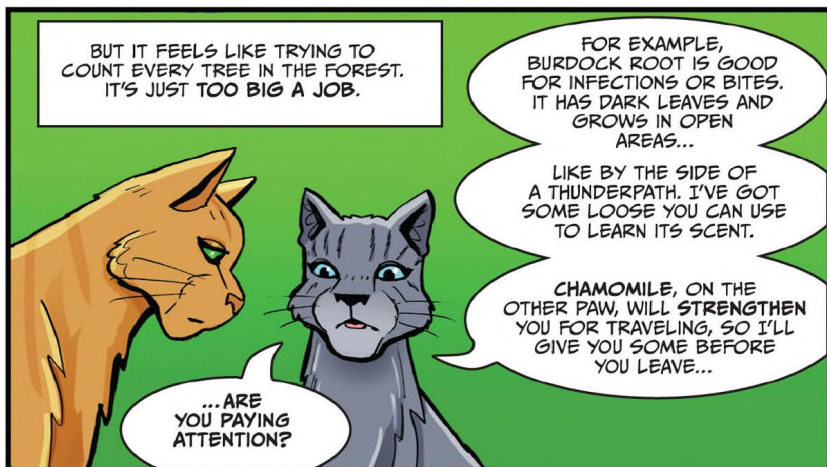
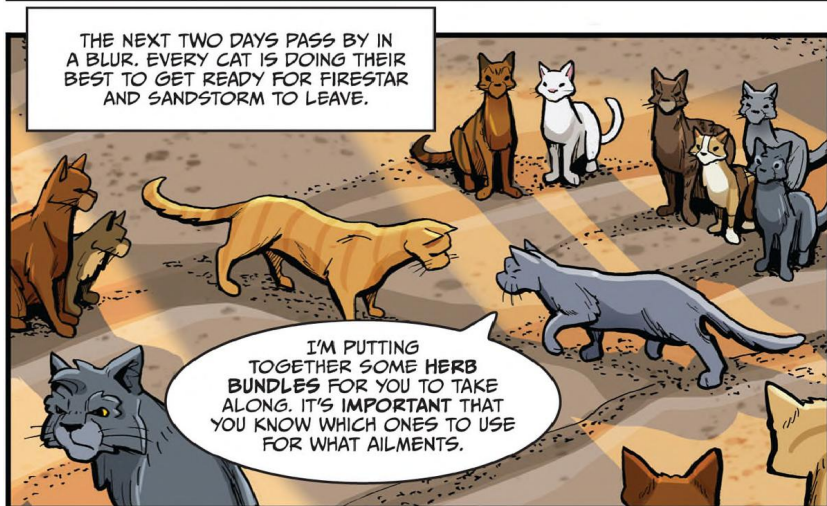
I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT I/LL ae aa THIS IS STARCLAN'S WILL. I MAY NOT KNOW EVERYTHING NOW... BUT 1AM GOING TO COME BACK. AND I DON'T KNOW YET WHERE I HAVE TO GO...OR HOW LONG I'LL BE GONE. HOW CAN HE NOT KNow?! WHO'S GOING TO BE MY MENTOR IF SANDSTORM IS LEAVING?



I HAVE ASKED DUSTPELT TO OVERSEE YOUR TRAINING, SORRELPAW. BUT WHO'S GOING TO GIVE US OUR WARRIOR NAMES? CATS OF 2, THUNDERCLAN — I WILL I PROMISE COME BACK. I AM NOT YOU THAT. ABANDONING YOU. AND WHEN SANDSTORM AND I RETURN, THEN YOU CAN SHOW ME HOW WELL YOU'VE BEEN TRAINED IN BUT WHAT | ABOUT THE OTHER \ | WHO'S GOING CLANS ? A “a7 TO KEEP US SAFE? HE /9 ABANDONING us!

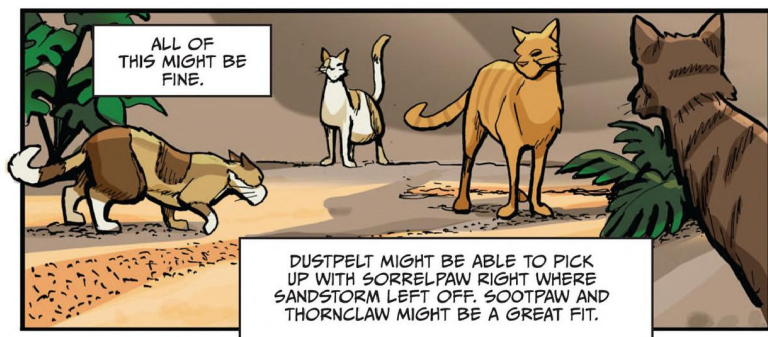


I'M SORRY. BUT THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN. WE'LL BE LEAVING IN TWO DAYS. THE NEXT TWO DAYS PASS BY IN A BLUR. EVERY CAT IS DOING THEIR BEST TO GET READY FOR FIRESTAR AND SANDSTORM TO LEAVE. IM PUTTING TOGETHER SOME HERB BUNDLES FOR YOU TO TAKE ALONG. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW WHICH ONES TO USE FOR WHAT AILMENTS. BUT IT FEELS LIKE TRYING TO FOR EXAMPLE, BURDOCK ROOT IS GOOD COUNT eis eee Jehio FOR INFECTIONS OR BITES. IT HAS DARK LEAVES AND GROWS IN OPEN AREAS... LIKE BY THE SIDE OF A THUNDERPATH, I'VE GOT SOME LOOSE YOU CAN USE TO LEARN ITS SCENT. CHAMOMILE, ON THE OTHER PAW, WILL STRENGTHEN YOU FOR TRAVELING, SO I'LL GIVE YOU SOME BEFORE YOU LEAVE... ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?

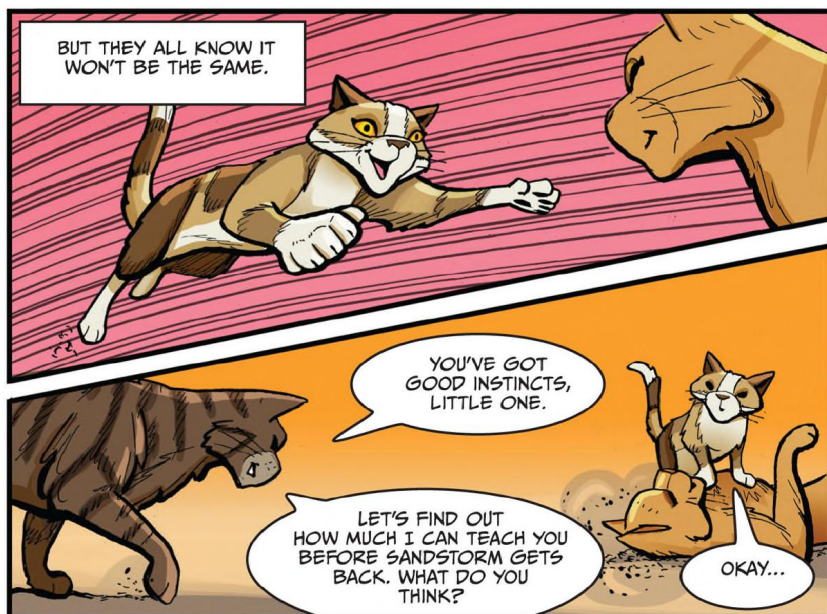




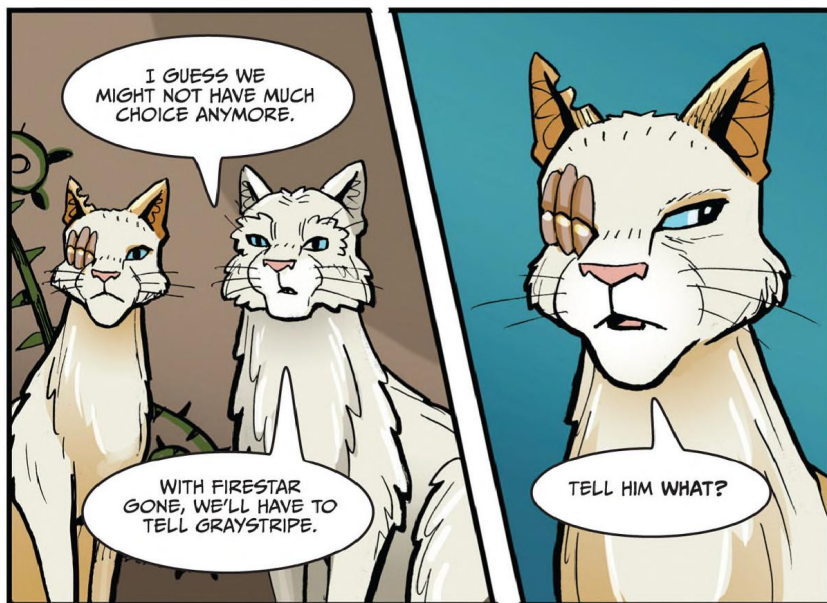
THE KIND OF JOB THAT WILL NEVER BE FINISHED, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU WORK AT IT. I JUST THINK IT'S BETTER — SAFER — IF THE OTHER CLANS DON'T KNOW I'M GONE. IF NECESSARY, YOU CAN TELL THEM THAT I'M MILDLY ILL. SANDSTORM AND SORRELPAW DO THEIR BEST TO GET DUSTPELT CAUGHT UP ON HER TRAINING. FIRESTAR MADE SOOTPAW THORNCLAW'S APPRENTICE, TOO, SINCE LONGTAIL CAN'T BE HIS MENTOR ANYMORE. ALL OF THIS MIGHT BE FINE. DUSTPELT MIGHT BE ABLE TO PICK UP WITH SORRELPAW RIGHT WHERE SANDSTORM LEFT OFF. SOOTPAW AND THORNCLAW MIGHT BE A GREAT FIT.



Cc LET'S FIND OUT & HOW MUCH I CAN TEACH YOU \ A  
5 NOW WE'LL NEVER GET TO TALK TO FIRESTAR ABOUT THE  
FRESH-KILL THIEF.



I GUESS WE MIGHT NOT HAVE MUCH CHOICE ANYMORE. WITH FIRESTAR GONE, WE'LL HAVE TO TELL GRAYSTRIPE. WE CAN'T ACCUSE ANY MORE OF OUR CLANMATES. NOT WITHOUT PROOF.



BUT IF WE WHETHER IT'S CAN FIND THAT — wi EN hid  
10 AGAINST A PARTICULAR GRAYSTRIPE. CAT, OR EVEN ONE OF  
THE OTHER CLANS. FIRESTAR WANTED PROOF, REMEMBER?  
BRIGHTHEART — HOW ARE YOU FEELING? WELL... HUGE. BUT  
OTHER THAN THAT, FINE. NOT JUST GUT INSTINCTS OR WILD  
ACCUSATIONS.





I PROBABLY WON'T BE BACK BY THE TIME YOUR KITS ARE BORN... 4 --- BUT I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THUNDERCLAN'S I'LL COME TO NEWEST MEMBERS. SEE YOU AS SOON AS WE RETURN. ] 'TELL HIM!' PART OF ME SHOUTS. THE PERFECT 'SAY, 'FIRESTAR, WE NEED TO OPPORTUNITY. pi RIGHT TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME CAT THERE, LOOKING AT ME. OR ee ae THE BUT HE'S LEAVING. IT'S AND I DON'T WANT TO WORRY TOO LATE FOR HIM TO HELP. HIM WHEN HE'S OFF DOING WHATEVER HE HAS TO DO FOR STARCLAN. THAT'LL BE GREAT, FIRESTAR. YOU CAN MEET OUR KITS WHEN YOU GET BACK.



The text on this page is estimated to be only 46.53% accurate

I KEEP TELLING MYSELF, FIRESTAR WOULDN'T GO  
UNLESS HE HAD TO. | ECU F y We F RA u XS) 3) \ \) 4 2 — py \ iS  
q) Bias @ 1 ww) | THE LEAST I CAN ( ( ' < ~ ~ DO |S SUPPORT  
HIM. 7 > "4 uy aes \* sof ay 4 «)) lan S bs os A ( ce ve) ) & @ 12  
S222 SP Teo VE Oz = .

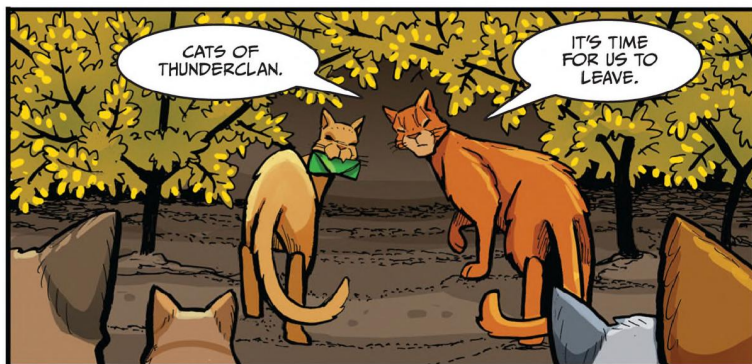


I HOPE THEY CAN STAY SAFE OUT THERE. I WISH HE DIDN'T HAVE TO Go. BUT IF IT'S STARCLAN'S WILL, WELL...IT'S STARCLAN'S WILL, I GUESS. I WOULDN'T SAY THIS WHERE THE WHOLE CLAN COULD HEAR ME, BUT... o ALL THIS BECAUSE OF STARCLAN? IT'S SILly. HE AND SANDSTORM MAYBE EVEN STUPID. MIGHT HAVE PLANS TO FIRESTAR IS WALKING OUT BECOME KITTYPETS ON US, SIMPLE AFTER ALL. AS THAT.





HE'LL COME BACK, CLOUDTAIL. CATS OF THUNDERCLAN. YEAH, BUT FOR WHAT, THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW! HELL COME BACK! YOU'LL SEE. IT'S TIME FOR US TO LEAVE.

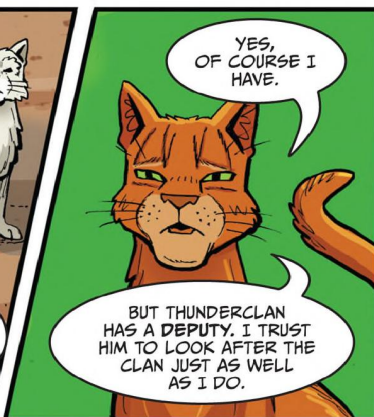
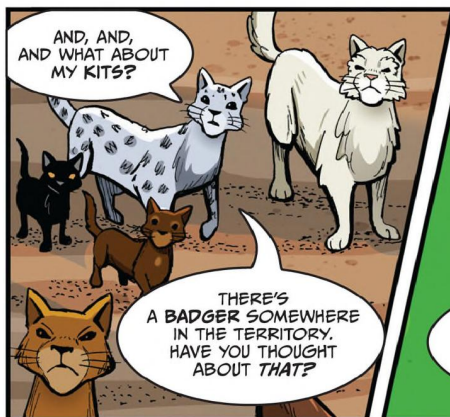


STARCLAN IS SUPPOSED TO LOOK AFTER THE FOREST.  
NOT SEND A CLAN LEADER GALLIVANTING OFF WHO-  
KNOWSWHERE! WHAT CAN BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN  
CARING FOR YOUR CLAN, FIRESTAR?



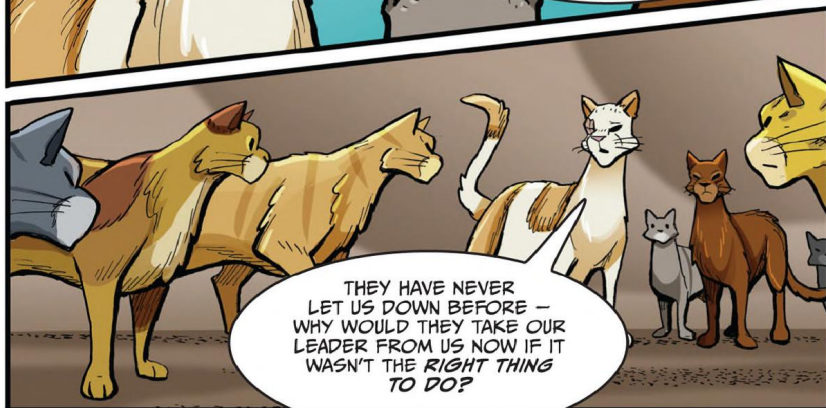
AND, AND, i YES, AND WHAT ABOUT OF COURSE I MY  
KITS? HAVE. THERE'S A BADGER SOMEWHERE BUT  
THUNDERCLAN IN THE TERRITORY. HAS A DEPUTY. I TRUST  
HAVE YOU THOUGHT HIM TO LOOK AFTER THE ABOUT THAT?  
CLAN Pag be WELL ALSO, YOU HAVE CINDERPELT TO TAKE  
CARE OF ANY INJURIES, AND TO INTERPRET THE SIONS OF  
STARCLAN. HE'S SAYING ALL THE RIGHT WORDS. HE'S OUR  
LEADER — WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE NO FAITH |N HIM. CLAN  
COULD HAVE A BETTER MEDICINE CAT. ...1 FEEL THE TENSION  
IN THE CROWD. BUILDING LIKE A STORM WIND. GETTING  
STRONGER AND STRONGER — READY TO TEAR THE CLAN  
DOWN.







AND I FIND, TO MY OWN GREAT SURPRISE, THAT I  
CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN. LISTEN! EVERYONE, LISTEN! ee  
FIRESTAR WOULDN'T LEAVE US UNLESS HE HAD To. IF  
STARCLAN HAS TOLD HIM HE MUST GO, THEN WE MUST TRUST  
OUR WARRIOR ANCESTORS TO TAKE CARE OF HIM AND BRING  
HIM SAFELY THEY HAVE NEVER LET US DOWN BEFORE — WHY  
WOULD THEY TAKE OUR LEADER FROM US NOW IF IT WASN'T  
THE R/GHT THING TO DOP



SANDSTORM SPEAKS SOFTLY, BUT I CAN HEAR HER WORDS. THEY DON'T LIKE YOU GOING. BUT THEY'LL ACCEPT IT IF IT IS THE WILL OF STARCLAN.



I HOLD MY BREATH... -.-. WAITING FOR HIM TO SAY ONE LAST THING. ONE LAST, PERFECT THING — SOMETHING TO PUT US ALL AT EASE. AS IT TURNS OUT, WE DON'T HEAR IT FROM FIRESTAR... GOODBYE, ALL OF YOU.





.. BUT FROM ONE OF OUR SMALLEST CLANMATES.  
GOODBYE, FIRESTAR! THAT'S ALL IT TAKES. THE TRUST IN  
SOOTPAW'S VOICE. BE CAREFUL, FIRESTAR! THE SIMPLE, PURE  
WARMTH THAT SAYS, WE LOVE YOU, AND WE'LL M/VS YOU.  
TRAVEL SAFELY! CO WY | 2 BACK SOON!





STARING AT THE KY.

STARING AT THE  
SKY.





TRYING TO THINK.



IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, LETTING FIRESTAR LEAVE. NOT BEGGING HIM TO STAY — MUCH AS I WANTED To. BUT NOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET COMFORTABLE. -- IT FEELS AS IF THUNDERCLAN IS IN TERRIBLE DANGER.







Fr > ae. = I WAKE IN THE DREAM. AND NOW I KNOW IT'S A DREAM... STARCLAN SAVE ME... « ° a a ' bh 7", .-- BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER. I'M NO LESS TERRIFIED. AAAAHHS I ALSO KNOW — DOWN IN MY BLOOD, IN MY BONES, I KNOW — THAT I AM COMPLETELY ALONE...

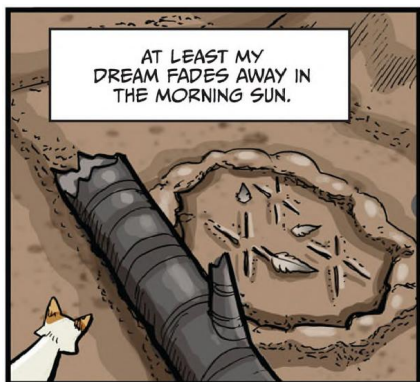


= I TELL MYSELF THAT NONE OF US ARE ALONE, EVEN IF FIRESTAR'S GONE. THE CLAN WILL COME TOGETHER AND PROTECT ME. I TELL MYSELF THAT, OVER AND OVER...



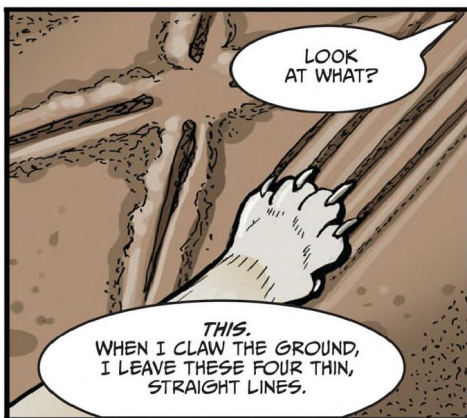
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Yy, T LETS ME FOC l, ia, ON SOMETHING ELEE. | SEO © :  
' I DON'T KNOW THAT I'VE EVER BEEN THIS GRATEFUL FOR  
SUNRISE.



COME ON, REALLY GET IN j IAM THERE. REALLY  
GETTING IN THERE! DO YOU SMELL ANY FRESH SCENTS? NO.  
PLENTY OF THUNDERCLAN SCENTS, ta, = BUT NO CAT'S BEEN  
HERE : SINCE SUNDOWN, I'D SAY. LOOK AT WHAT? THIS. WHEN  
I CLAW THE GROUND, I LEAVE THESE FOUR THIN, STRAIGHT  
LINES. THEN YOU LOOK AT THESE — THERE ARE FOUR OF  
THEM, BUT THEY'RE ALL... ANGLED.





RIGHT. WE'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE. HAD ANY NEW  
THOUGHTS ON WHAT MADE THEM? WHICH MAKES ME ASK:  
WHY, AND HOW, NONE. BUT I'/LL WOULD A CAT LEAVE TELL  
YOU THIS MUCH — THESE GOUGES? IF IT WAS A CAT, THEN  
THESE ARE NOT CLAW MARKS. £2 HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO  
ALL OUR



ONLY A FEW FEATHERS LEFT! WE NEED TO AND I  
CAN'T HELP. FIGURE OUT WHAT NOTICING THAT YOU TWO  
HAPPENED TO THE Wee WERE HERE BEFORE FRESH-KILL PILE. |  
EVERY OTHER CAT. DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?  
AND EVERY TIME PREY'S GONE MISSING, CLOUDTAIL AND I  
NOTICED YEAH, THESE STRANGE CLAW IT'S HAPPENED A  
MARKS IN THE GROUND. FEW TIMES NOW. MAYBE SIX OR  
EIGHT TIMES? IT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR A WHILE...





-.- COULD YOU POSSIBLY... WELL, WE UH... WE DID TRY TO TELL FIRESTAR... BUT HE WAS BUSY. THEN YOU = a SHOULD HAVE YY YOU BO TRUST TOLD ME/ : / YOUR CLANMATES, DON'T YOU, OR SOME OF » BRIGHTHEART? THE OTHER WARRIORS \ YOU TRUST! LOOK. I KNOW YOU AND CLOUDTAIL FELT LIKE YOU HAD TO WORK ALONE WHILE YOU WERE LEARNING TO BE A WARRIOR AGAIN. BUT YOU CAN'T DO EVERYTHING ALONE!



A CLAN IS ABOUT DEPENDING ON OTHER CATS. I'VE HEARD YOU TELL OTHER CATS THAT... BUT SOMETIMES YOU ACT LIKE YOU DON'T THINK IT APPLIES TO YOU. AND I'M TELLING YOU THAT IT DOES. YOU'RE RIGHT, AND I'M SORRY. WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO HANDLE THIS BY OURSELVES, AND WE DIDN'T NEED To. IT APPLIES TO ALL f.. GRAYSTRIPE, YOU'RE RIGHT. OF US, I DO BELIEVE IN THUNDERCLAN. I SHOULD'VE TURNED I'M SORRY. TO MY CLANMAT!



IF, UH... IF YOU'RE STILL INTERESTED IN WHAT WE THINK... YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE THIS OUT LONGER THAN ANY CAT! OF COURSE I'M INTERESTED, BRIGHTHEART, WE'RE ALL INTERESTED. BUT WHAT IF THE THIEF IS A CAT WHO'S ALREADY IN THE CAMP? APOLOGY ACCEPTED. OKAY — OKAY, WELL, I THINK WE NEED TO SET A TRAP FOR WHOEVER'S BEEN SNEAKING INTO THE CAMP. WE'RE SURE IT'S NOT. WHATEVER THIS IS, IT'S A THREAT TO THUNDERCLAN. NOT A THREAT TO THUNDERCLAN.

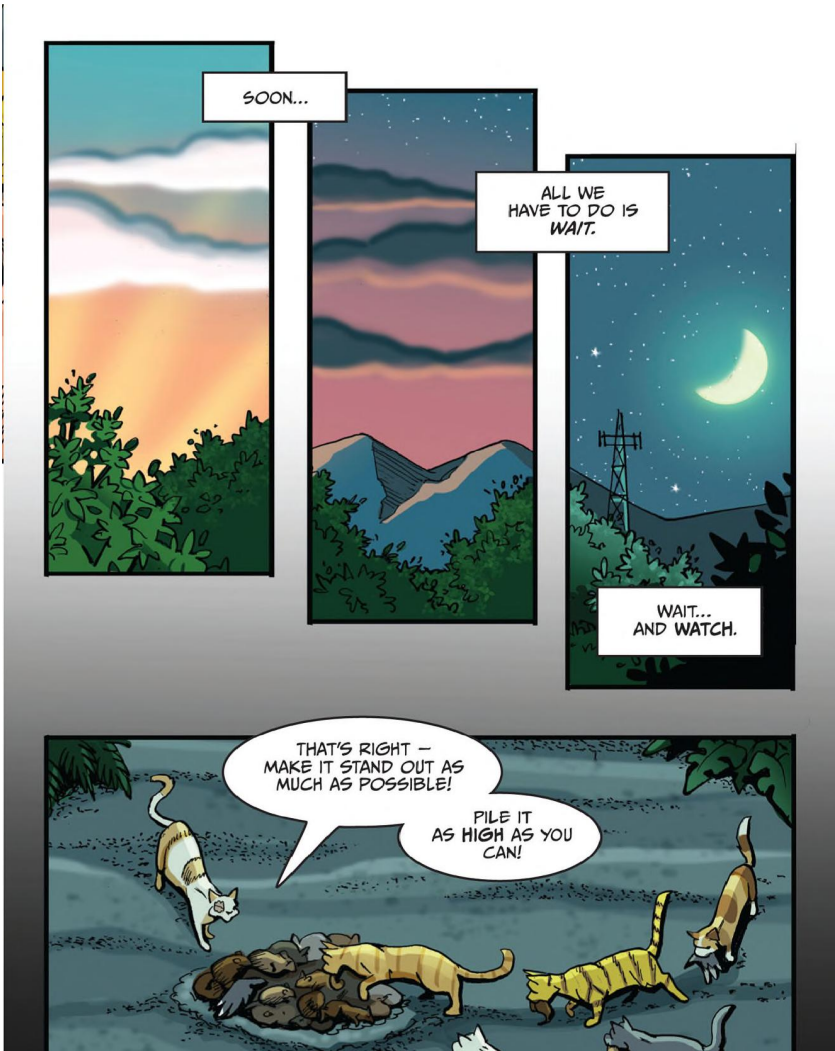




Jt; Ie 0 1] DESPITE GETTING BESIDES, HE WAS RIGHT. CALLED OUT BY GRAYSTRIPE, CLOUDTAIL AND I SHOULD/VE I SPEND ee THE DAY ASKED FOR HELP IMMEDIATELY. 1] BUT NOW / Ee, WE'RE GETTING IT. AND THE FIRST AND BIGGEST STEP IS TO BAIT THE TRAP. WHAT A GREAT CATCH! GOOD WORK, RAINPAW!



ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT. THAT'S RIGHT — MAKE IT STAND OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE! PILE IT AS HIGH AS YOU CAN! A)



PICK A BUSH AROUND THE CAMP, C UNDER IT SO YOU'RE OUT OF SIGHT, AND DO NOT TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THIS NEW PILE. BRIGHTHEART — WOULD IT HELP IF I CLIMBED UP IN A TREE AND WATCHED FROM THERE? THORNCLAW AND I COULD GO OUTSIDE AND WATCH THE ENTRANCE TO THE RAVINE... 7 IN A TREE... YES. THAT'S AN EXCELLENT IDEA, BRAMBLECLAW. GOOD THINKING. CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY EVEN GET INTO THE CAMP! YES, VERY GOOD!





OKAY,  
NOW WE HIDE.

PICK A BUSH  
AROUND THE CAMP, CRAWL  
UNDER IT SO YOU'RE OUT OF  
SIGHT, AND DO NOT TAKE YOUR  
EYES OFF THIS NEW PILE.



BRIGHTHEART —  
WOULD IT HELP IF I  
CLIMBED UP IN A TREE  
AND WATCHED FROM  
THERE?

IN A TREE...YES.  
THAT'S AN EXCELLENT  
IDEA, BRAMBLECLAW.  
GOOD THINKING.



THORNCLAW  
AND I COULD GO OUTSIDE  
AND WATCH THE ENTRANCE  
TO THE RAVINE...?

CATCH THEM  
BEFORE THEY EVEN  
GET INTO THE CAMP!  
YES, VERY GOOD!



LONGTAIL AND I CAN TAKE CARE OF SHREWKIT AND SPIDERKIT. KEEP THEM IN THE MEDICINE DEN, SO THEY'RE SAFE AND OUT OF THE WAY. I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE... BUT I CAN STILL FIGHT WELL ENOUGH TO PROTECT THE KITS FROM ANYTHING THAT MAKES IT ALL THE WAY INTO THE DEN. ABSOLUTELY. THAT MIGHT BE THE BEST IDEA I'VE HEARD ALL NIGHT!



BRIGHTHEART?



LONGTAIL  
AND I CAN TAKE CARE  
OF SHREWKIT AND  
SPIDERKIT.

KEEP THEM IN THE  
MEDICINE DEN, SO  
THEY'RE SAFE AND OUT  
OF THE WAY.



I MAY NOT BE  
ABLE TO SEE...

BUT I CAN STILL  
FIGHT WELL ENOUGH  
TO PROTECT THE KITS  
FROM ANYTHING THAT  
MAKES IT ALL THE WAY  
INTO THE DEN.



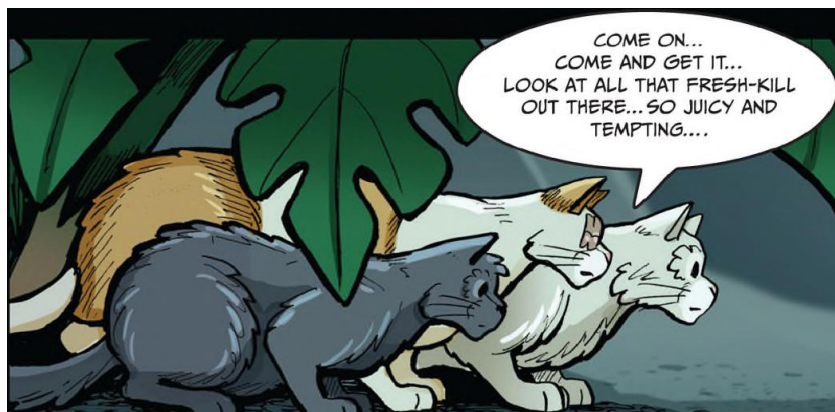
YES!  
ABSOLUTELY.

THAT MIGHT BE  
THE BEST IDEA I'VE  
HEARD ALL NIGHT!

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Mt hy = umn wg Pa 6 4 — | --- AND WAIT... r a5 COME ON... COME AND GET IT... LOOK AT ALL THAT FRESH-KILL OUT THERE...50 JUICY AND TEMPTING...





BRIGHTHEART... 7 WHAT IF THE BADGERS BEEN  
STEALING OUR FOOD? I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT IT. 1 STILL  
DREAM ABOUT THE DOGS THAT ATTACKED ME. AND I USED TO  
WORRY THEY MIGHT FIND ME AGAIN ON THUNDERCLAN  
TERRITORY. OR EVEN IN OUR CAMP. SOMETIMES THAT  
HAPPENS. THE DREAMS, I MEAN. IT'S NORMAL TO BE AFRAID.  
BUT PART OF BEING A CLAN CAT IS THAT SOME CAT IS ALWAYS  
GUARDING THE CAMP. NOTHING'S GOING TO SNEAK UP ON  
YOU — IF ANY ENEMY OR HOSTILE ANIMAL COMES FOR US,  
WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF WARNING... MENTION PLENTY OF  
CLANMATES TO FIGHT BESIDE US.

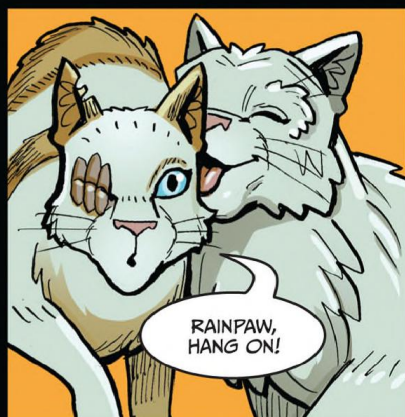




IT'S TOO MUCH ' FOR RAINPAW. \* 4 THE NIGHT DRAGS ON... AND ON... AND ON. ITS ABOUT TO BE TOO MUCH FOR THE REST OF US, TOO. I DON'T THINK ALL RIGHT. ANYTHING'S HAPPENING TONIGHT. MAYBE WE COULD TRY AGAIN TOMORROW.



WELL THEN, IM AT LEAST GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE OF THAT PREY! I'VE BEEN HUNGRY SINCE THE MOON CAME UP! G I DID MEAN WE SHOULD RELAX! RAINPAW, COME BACK HERE!





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— AND GRANT MY LEGS STRENGTH! \F e p 4. sy : 2 : JY  
d ae - me o EC - . Se 2. =a A 3 2 by ‘ R x . . ‘ { = \ | \ | \ @ By  
BRIGHTHEART! ¢@ HELP ME/ — STARCLAN, GUIDE ME — eZ







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Seat) BRIGHTHEART! aye = ¢ —f > . mI ds ( é RS



I CAN'T ARE YOU OKAY? THE SCRATCHES Caen ee  
AREN'T TOO DEEP. ! SHOULD HEAL WITHOUT MUCH TROUBLE,  
YOU ARE ONE LUCKY APPRENTICE. DID THE OWL HURT YOU?  
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD WHEN YOU FELL? HOW'S YOUR  
BELLY? ARE THE KITS OKAY? I'M FINE, I'M FINE, I — WHOA...  
FEEL A LITTLE LIGHTHEADED...







THERE'S SOME SERIOUS MOVEMENT IN HERE, BUT I  
DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT ANY PROBLEMS. THE VOICES OF THE  
CLAN WASH OVER ME. YOUR LITTLE ONES ARE PROBABLY JUST  
EXCITED. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY KITS GET TO GO FLYING.  
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT HOW BRAVE RAINPAW IS... AND  
SAYING I'M A HERO. I'M NO HERO. I JUST HELPED A  
CLANMATE. THAT'S ALL.



THERE'S SOME SERIOUS  
MOVEMENT IN HERE, BUT  
I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT  
ANY PROBLEMS.

YOUR LITTLE  
ONES ARE PROBABLY  
JUST *EXCITED*.

IT'S NOT  
EVERY DAY KITS  
GET TO GO  
*FLYING*.



THE VOICES OF THE  
CLAN WASH OVER ME.

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT  
HOW *BRAVE* RAINPAW IS...  
AND SAYING I'M A *HERO*.

I CAN'T TELL ONE  
FROM ANOTHER.



I'M NO HERO.  
I JUST HELPED A CLANMATE.  
THAT'S ALL.

WELL! I DOUBT THAT OWL WILL SEE OUR FRESH-KILL  
PILE AS EASY PICKINGS ANYMORE! BUT, JUST TO BE SURE,  
MAYBE WE SHOULD MOVE IT — SAY, UNDER COVER OF SOME  
BUSHES. THEY'RE RIGHT, BRIGHTHEART. WHAT EVERY CAT'S  
SAYING. YOU ARE A HERO. BUT IF YOU COULD PERHAPS BE  
JUST A TINY LITTLE BIT J CAREFUL? AT LEAST UNTIL OUR KITS  
ARE BORN? I'D REALLY 1 APPRECIATE IT. TLL ee WHAT I CAN



I THINK FIRESTAR 2 ; WOULD BE PROUD OF US. i  
CLOUDTAIL EVEN ' : AS GETS HIS WISH FOR PEACE. WE CAUGHT  
THE THIEF... SAVED AN APPRENTICE'S LIFE... AND KEPT THE  
CLAN FROM FALLING APART WHILE HE'S GONE. RAINPAW  
CAUGHT THIS VOLE ALL BY HIMSELF — HE'S TURNING OUT TO  
BE A NATURAL HUNTER. , YO! GOOD THING HE WASN'T, Bir at  
ou SAY, EATEN BY AN OWL 5 aie sai OR ANYTHING. — = — = — =  
—





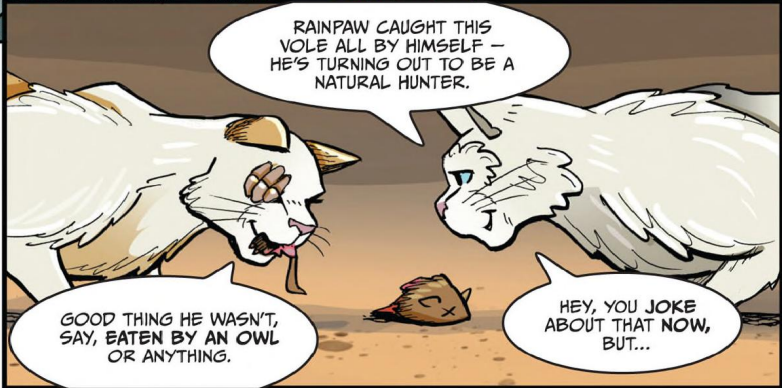
I THINK FIRESTAR  
WOULD BE PROUD OF US.

WE CAUGHT THE THIEF...  
SAVED AN APPRENTICE'S LIFE...  
AND KEPT THE CLAN FROM  
FALLING APART WHILE HE'S GONE.



CLOUDTAIL EVEN  
GETS HIS WISH FOR  
PEACE.

FOR A FEW DAYS,  
ANYWAY.



RAINPAW CAUGHT THIS  
VOLE ALL BY HIMSELF -  
HE'S TURNING OUT TO BE A  
NATURAL HUNTER.

GOOD THING HE WASN'T,  
SAY, EATEN BY AN OWL  
OR ANYTHING.

HEY, YOU JOKE  
ABOUT THAT NOW,  
BUT...

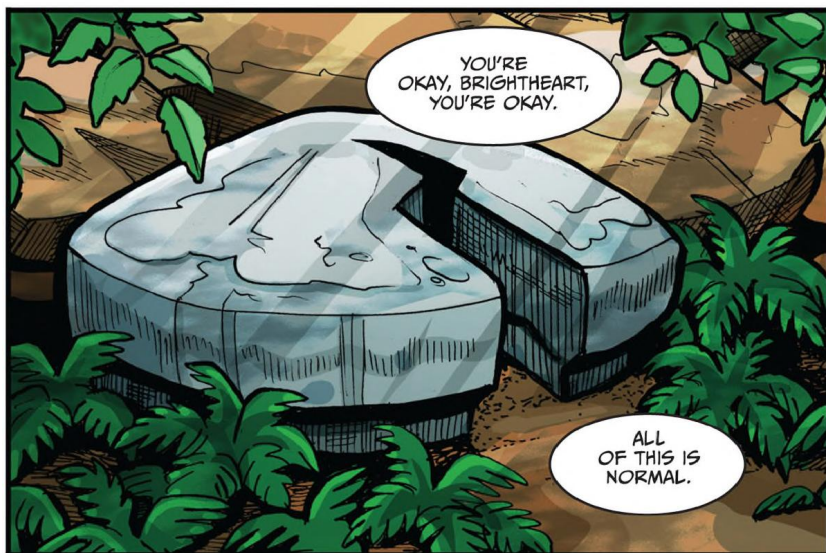


OOF.

a WHAT | 6 IT? WHAT'S WRONG?) I THINK... I THINK THE KITS ARE COMING? MAYBE? P I'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE — BUT SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY HAPPENING. YOU'RE OKAY, BRIGHTHEART, YOU'RE OKAY. ALL OF THIS IS NORMAL.



• • •



JUST BREATHE... FOCUS ON YOUR AND BITE  
BREATHING... THAT'S \_ DOWN HARD WHEN RIGHT. THE PAIN  
COMES.





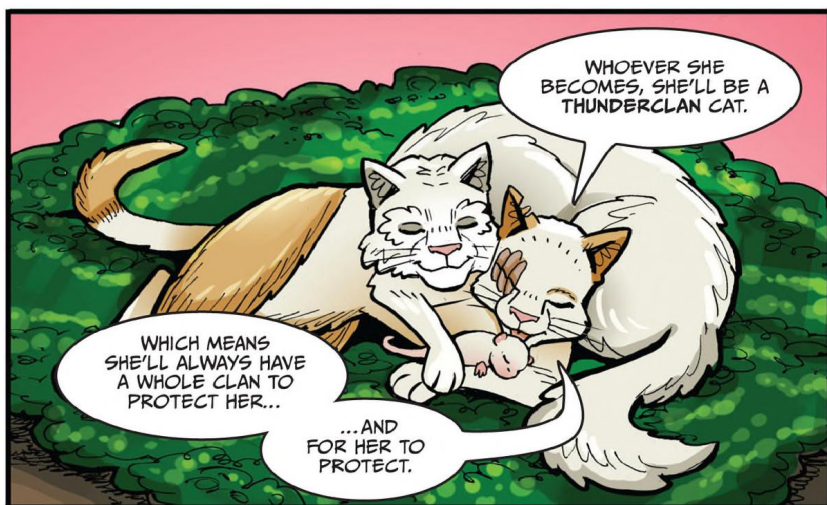
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Oo = iE. § > = ee : ) i] SHE'S S n ks CLOUDTAIL — I  
CAN FEEL HER LITTLE HEART! LITTLE WHITEKIT'S HEART.

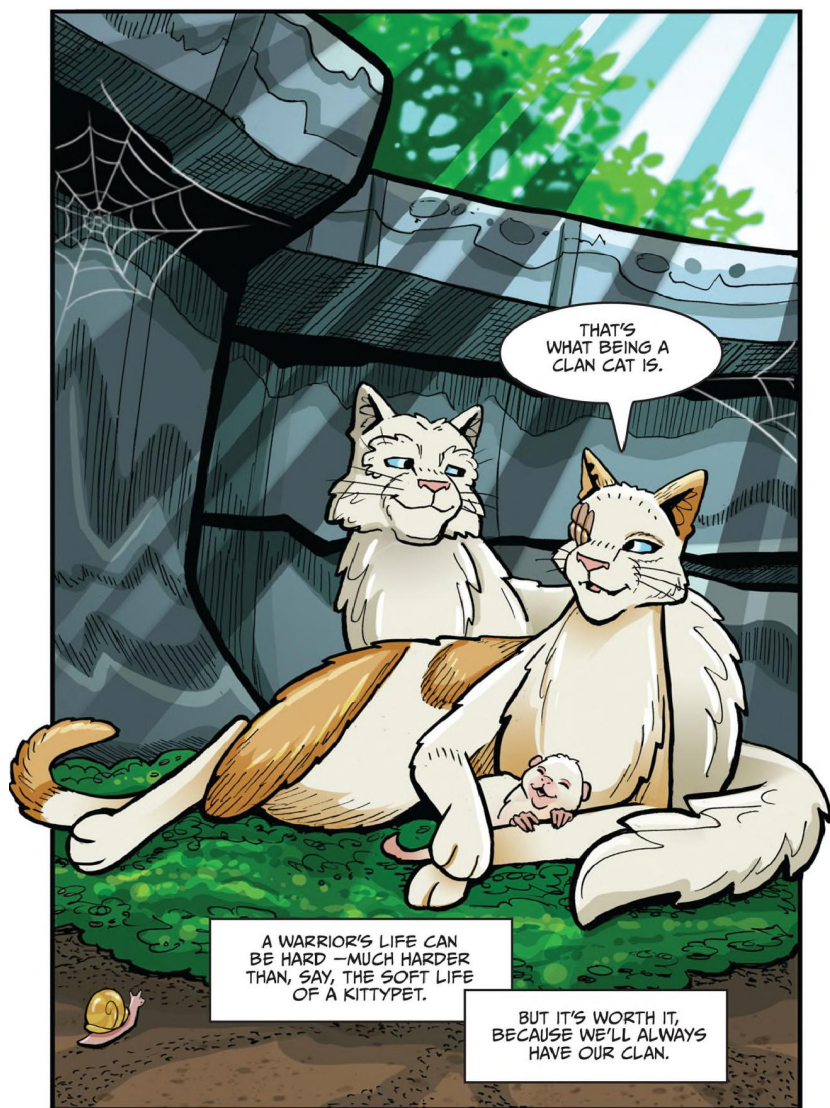


MAYBE SHE'LL EVEN BE LEADER SOMEDAY. IT'S  
PERFECT. AS PERFECT AS SHE 15...A9 HER MOTHER WHOEVER  
SHE BECOMES, SHE'LL BE A THUNDERCLAN CAT. WHICH MEANS  
SHE'LL ALWAYS HAVE A WHOLE CLAN TO PROTECT HER..  
PROTECT.





THAT'S WHAT BEING A CLAN CAT IS. A WARRIOR'S LIFE CAN BE HARD —MUCH HARDER THAN, SAY, THE SOFT LIFE OF A KITTYPET. BUT IT'S WORTH IT, BECAUSE WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE OUR CLAN.



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